

Tampa Bay e-News

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 20, 2014 NEWSWORTHY ITEM? PLEASE CONTACT OFFICE@PBTY.COM. THANK YOU!

Presbytery of Tampa Bay
4704 Kelly Road in Tampa, Florida (813) 868-4800 office

HILLSBOROUGH AND EAST RC TO MEET

Special points for prayer and participation:

- **The International Mission Partnership Committee** plans to send a container to the Presbytery of Honduras in 2014. Donations must be delivered to: Plantain Products Co., 5821 E. Causeway Blvd., Tampa, FL (between Hwy 41 and Hwy 301 in east Tampa). Deliveries can be made Monday to Friday between 8:30AM and 3:30PM by May 28, 2014. For more information, please email Margaret Shaw at mpshaw46@aol.com.
- The Presbytery of Tampa Bay invites you to the Service of Installation of the Reverend Robert Scott as Pastor at Peace Memorial PC, Clearwater on Sunday, May 4. Details to follow.
- "Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel....." 2 Timothy 2:8a

Last Saturday Presbyterians were greeted at the "WEST" Regional Commission meeting by local cowboys and cowgirls sporting bandanas, seated at tables adorned by red and white checkered tablecloths...yeehaw!

Since this was the first attempt, no one was quite sure what to expect, so we were surprised by the positive energy and hopeful expectations of the 90 Presbyterians who gathered to think about collaborative ministry between local Presbyterian congregations, sharing resourcing with other neighbors, and providing opportunities for best practices and encouragement with other Presbyterian congregations. On top of this, SAPC, Dunedin, created a fun

environment for the conversation.

HILLSBOROUGH—March 22 from 8:45-11AM at Village, Tampa

EAST—March 29 from 8:45AM-11AM at Highlands, Lakeland

Everyone is welcome to attend. The primary leader for the Hillsborough Region is Celie Wilhite, Tampa, resident and Coordinating Team Chair. The East Region meeting will be facilitated by Patrice Hatley, Moderator of the Presbytery and resident of Winter Haven in Polk County.

You are asked to arrive no earlier than 8:30AM on the day of the meeting to sign in and claim a name tag; bring \$3 for breakfast. We look forward to seeing you!



The second Regional Commission Meeting is this Saturday, March 22 from 8:45-11AM at Village PC, Tampa. Hillsborough Regional Commission—we are looking for you to show up and participate with fellow Presbyterians in your neighborhood. Please remember to bring a good attitude and \$3 for breakfast. (Photo is John Fullerton facilitating the West RC last Saturday. Cowboy. West. Get it?)

SHEPHERD'S SABBATH

Looking for a moment to rest and recharge after Holy Week and Easter? Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center has the event for you. We invite all church professionals and their families serving in Peace River or Tampa Bay Presbyteries to enjoy a time of Sabbath in the beauty of God's creation.

Come be our guest for this **free** two-night, three-day event designed to give you plenty of time for rest and relaxation. The schedule is flexible allowing you to hike, study, reflect, and worship with plenty of time for rocking on the porch and conversation over great meals served at Cedar Lodge.

Whether you can stay for the day or all three days, you won't want to miss this opportunity for Sabbath at Cedarkirk. Please contact the camp office at (813) 685-4224 ext. 1 or info@cedarkirk.org to make your reservations for this free event.

RESOURCE CENTER SALES

Good items and lots of curricula still remain for sale at the Resource Center. You are welcome to come by the Resource Center on Kelly Road and get a deal (\$1/resource) from 9:00AM-1:00PM on the following date:

Thursday, March 27

Questions? Contact Sue Moore at 813-868-4800.

If you are interested in purchasing some of the shelving units in the Resource Center, please contact Ann Marie in the Presbytery office at 813-868-4800. Come early, come often. We've got deals!

NEW BEGINNINGS ON MARCH 29 IN CLEARWATER

New Beginnings is a service offered by the Office of Church Growth of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in partnership with the Church Extension office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

It assesses the strengths and challenges for congregations as they seek to engage in significant ministry in their communities. The assessment service, along with follow-up strategic interpretation with congregational leaders, enables congregations who have experienced decline to envision a new path for their future. In most

cases, congregations in decline struggle not only with a ministry plan that fits their neighborhood, but also with deferred building maintenance, use of space, and other architectural or location issues as well.

The assessment and follow-up training intend to help congregations gain a realistic picture of their resources for ministry, their demographic strengths, their potential for change, and their potential for vital ministry in order to put them on the road to sustainable Christian witness and action in their communities.

While originally designed for churches in decline, this process can also be helpful to congregations that are not necessarily in numerical decline but are looking for new energy, direction, and focus.

New Beginnings and the Commission on Church Vitality (CCV) of Tampa Bay Presbytery will host a gathering on Saturday, March 29, at 10AM at Northwood Presbyterian Church, 2845 Florida 580, Clearwater. For more info, please contact CCV Chair, David Baker, at pastordavidbaker@gmail.com.