

Tampa Bay e-News

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 27, 2014 NEWSWORTHY ITEM? PLEASE CONTACT OFFICE@PBTY.COM. THANK YOU!

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

THIRD REGIONAL COMMISSION THIS SATURDAY

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 mpsban46@aol.com.
- **FLAPDAN Spring Meeting** will be hosted on Monday, April 28, 2014, from 9:30AM-3:00PM in Gainesville. Please RSVP by calling Kathy Broyard, FLAPDAN Executive Director at (941) 483-0675.
- "I am the good shepherd...."
John 10:11

Coordinating Team Chair Celie Wilhite greeted 55 Presbyterians at the Hillsborough Regional Commission this past Saturday, to meet Presbyterians from the Hillsborough Region and to start conversations to explore what this region will do together for the gospel.

Participants were encouraged to hear about the extensive Food Pantry Ministry of Village PC, Tampa, the new collaborative venture of Family Promise at First PC, Brandon, and the opportunities that exist for us to partner with each other to do mission and ministry together.

From a quick review of feedback from participants, Presbyterians are beginning to explore ways to be together

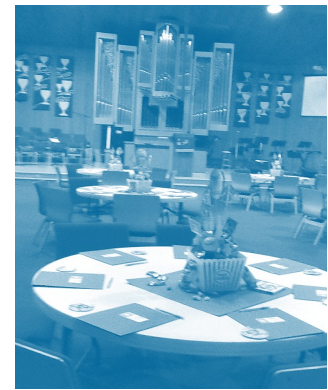
with a neighboring Presbyterian congregation, from attending a fellowship supper to helping with a feeding ministry.

The third Regional Commission gathering is with the East Regional Commission in East Pasco and Polk Counties, and will be hosted this Saturday:

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

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!



A beautiful, spacious sanctuary populated by tables any Tampa Bay Rays Fan would appreciate greeted Presbyterians attending the Hillsborough Regional Commission meeting this past Saturday. It was a great morning, and many thanks to Jim Yearsley, Elaine Richards, and the "Team" from Village PC, Tampa, for hosting.

SEVENTH DAY PRAYER

During Lent, we intentionally choose to participate in spiritual practices that draw us closer to God. One of these Lenten spiritual practices is daily prayer with its emphasis on an increasing awareness of God's presence. In April, the Presby-

tery will gather again for "On the Seventh Day Prayer" on Monday, April 7 at 12noon at McLeod Memorial Presbyterian Church. The church is located at 695 W. Stuart Street in Bartow, Florida.

The entire Presbytery is invited to come together and pray.

The courtesy of your RSVP is appreciated for preparations, including the luncheon meal. Please contact Ann Marie in the Presbytery office at (813) 868-4800 to make your RSVP by Friday, April 4, for the April "On the Seventh Day Prayer" in Bartow.

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.

SOCIETY OF ST ANDREW AND SABBATH AND SOUND

The Society of St Andrew (SoSA) has a link on its website to a Good Friday Fast—Resource Booklet. Guidelines and devotional materials for a 1 or 3 day fast, with devotions prepared for SoSA by the Reverend Hardman-Cromwell of Wesley Theological Seminary can be found at SoSAPR@endhunger.org.

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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 Pres-

byteries 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.

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The worshipping community at Beth-El Farmworker Ministries is looking for a piano. If you have one to donate, please contact Pastor Walter Chuquimia at Beth-El at (813) 633-1548.

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The Presbytery is selling shelving in the Resource Center and other assorted odds and ends. Proceeds are used for future educational mission programming in the Presbytery. Contact Ann Marie at (813) 868-4800 for more info.