



## **e-News from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay**

4704 Kelly Road, Tampa, Florida 33615

February 19, 2015

***The Mission of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay is to identify and strengthen leaders so that every congregation makes new and mature disciples of Jesus Christ.***

*Because you have been good about sending me information you'd like posted in the eNews, and because all of this is very timely, I'm sending out this special edition today.*

*Please know that the materials for the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay on 2/28/2015 will be posted late tomorrow afternoon. Peace be with you, Laurie Palmer, Temporary Stated Clerk*

### **The Rev. Dr. Robert M.C. Ward entered the Church Triumphant**

on January 31, 2015 at Florida Presbyterian Homes in Lakeland, Florida surrounded by his family. He died while in hospice care as a result of multiple strokes over the last three years. Dr. Ward was born in Newburgh, New York on September 21, 1934 and was the son of a Presbyterian minister and school teacher. He graduated from the College of Wooster, McCormick Theological Seminary and San Francisco Theological Seminary. He married the love of his life, Grace Ossentjuk, who was also the daughter of a Presbyterian minister, in 1960. The Ward's served churches in the Midwest and the Southeast for 50 years. Dr. Ward was a dynamic preacher yet his love of children was evident in his elaborate children's sermons that captivated both the young ones and the adults. He excelled at congregational leadership and church business administration but found his real niche in ministry by serving congregations in conflict as a Transitional Pastor (Interim specialist). He is survived by his wife Grace; his three children; Kathryn A. Neff (Michael Neff), Rev. Dr. Robert D. Ward (Rev. Dr. Victoria Isaacs), and Rev. Dr. William J. Ward (Dr. Rachel Ward); his brother Rev. Thomas S. Ward; nine grandchildren; and three great-grand daughters. A memorial service celebrating Dr. Ward's life will be held at the Chapel at Florida Presbyterian Homes on March 7, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. when his first cousin, Rev. Harry Johns, will preside along with the Florida Presbyterian Homes' Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Barbara Booth-Jarmon. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be directed to The Loving Care Fund at Florida Presbyterian Homes (16 Lake Hunter Drive, Lakeland, FL 33803) and/or Compassionate Care Hospice (2525 Drane Field Road, Suite 4, Lakeland, FL 33811).

### **Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, Clearwater,**

and the Self-Development of People Committee PC(USA) are offering a unique opportunity for lunch fellowship and conversation on March 5, 2015 at the church at Noon. There will be a celebration PMPC's ministry to the homeless and a time to learn about the Self-Development of People project given life by that ministry.

All are invited to this lunch. Please RSVP by March 1 to the Presbytery of Tampa Bay office, 813-868-4800.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will also be highlighted, which provides generous funding for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People.

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, 110 S. Ft. Harrison Ave., Clearwater. The lunch will be in the Peace Café building (behind the church).

**Church on the Bayou, Tarpon Springs**

A grief and loss support group will begin at The Church on the Bayou on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 3:00 p.m., for six weeks. Wanda Austin, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and National Certified Counselor, will facilitate the group.

A grief support curriculum will include topics such as, the nature of grief, managing difficult emotions, nurturing the wounded self, coping with the stress of change, remembering the one who died, and making needed adjustments.

To be preregistered, which is required, please call the church office at (727) 937-3795. There is no charge for registration or group meetings but love offerings will be accepted.

**Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs, New Port Richey**

Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs, New Port Richey is looking for a part-time bookkeeper. Applicants would be required to work half-days on Monday-Thursday, specific hours are negotiable. Experience with Automated Church Systems (ACS) is preferable, but not required. Questions and resumes may be directed to [mail@tpcross.org](mailto:mail@tpcross.org)

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