



e-News from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay

4704 Kelly Road, Tampa, Florida 33615

April 2, 2015 Maundy Thursday

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.

Holy Week Letter from Patrice Hatley, Coach and Coordinator

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

May the Peace of our Savior Jesus Christ be with you in new and transforming ways this Easter weekend.

Today, Maundy Thursday is referred by some as Command Thursday...the day we celebrate Jesus' affirmation of the Old Testament instructions to 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. And you shall love your neighbors as yourself.' Not to mention the Great Commission, making and baptizing new disciples for Christ!

May we all put our focus toward those very simple yet very complex commands. May we let go of the things that distract us from that sacred responsibility. I am happy to report that many of the interactions I've had with church leaders in the last 3 months have been about that very thing. The questions are usually about how and what they should do to regain a sense of mission and vitality. The ones who really get it, have shifted their gaze back to that most important commandment. Those are the ones who actually love each other and find ways to embrace each other's quirks and are open to the Spirit's direction. The ones who don't get it persist in internal conflicts and bickering over everything under the sun. It's often those quirks that get under our skin and seriously infect us to the point we are unable to even see that we have gotten off course, because our energy is spent on assignment of blame.

God forgive us our distractions. Help us, O Lord, help us to help each other, and to love each other, too.

Lastly, please cut your pastors some slack, too. Lent can be very busy, spiritually and physically tiring time for church leaders. And also remember to keep our many chaplains in hospitals, military service, college, and retirement communities in your prayers. They face a different kind of pastoral burden.

Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts, souls, minds, and strengths with renewed sense of purpose.

Amen

Happy Easter, Dear Presbytery of Tampa Bay. Love, Patrice

REGIONAL MEETINGS

East Region: Thursday, April 23 at 10 a.m. with lunch at First Presbyterian Church, Dade City; 37412 Church Ave, Dade City, FL 33525

Hillsborough Region: Thursday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m., Bel Mar Presbyterian Church, Tampa; 4003 South Manhattan Avenue, Tampa, FL 33611

West Region: Saturday, April 25 at 8:45 a.m. First Presbyterian Church, Safety Harbor; 255 5th Ave., Safety Harbor, FL 34695 **TAKE NOTE:**

The Presbytery of Tampa Bay is beginning to live into the model we voted on based on the Transformation Team's report. Each congregation will send Commissioners to the Regional Meeting. Churches elect and send the number of Commissioners they're allotted now to these meetings. We will register Commissioners (voice and vote) and Visitors (voice, no vote).

Our tasks will be focused around the work of the Regions' Commission on Ministry, Commission on Church Vitality, and Commission on Preparation for Ministry. We will worship together, then go into a meeting where, if applicable, Inquirers moving to Candidacy will be presented, Candidates moving to ordination will preach and be examined, Teaching Elders who are retiring will be honored, a written Treasurer's report will be available, and so forth.

FYI: Full (Including all three Regions) Stated Presbytery Meetings will include worship, receiving the reports from the Region Meetings; and when applicable, election of Moderator, Vice Moderator, GA

Commissioners; vote on Proposed Amendments in the years we are called upon to do that, vote on the Nominations and Representation Report, and the like. *The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay is July 23 at McLeod Presbyterian Church, Bartow.*

Webinar: Resource Development Strategies for Your CERT Program

The FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Division is pleased to invite you to a webinar to learn new strategies to develop resources for your CERT Program.

Title: Resource Development Strategies for Your CERT Program

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2015; Time: 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (ET)

Guest speakers: Dave Nichols, Program Manager for Mississippi Citizen Corps and CERT
Jolan Csukas, Volunteer Coordinator for Cowley County, KS CERT
Brian Maier, Chief Operations Officer for Search and Rescue Ohio

Our speakers will share their insights and advice on how to secure resources for training and activities, lessons learned from their experiences, and how their resource development efforts have benefitted their programs and communities.

The webinar will conclude with a question and answer session where participants will also be invited to share their suggestions for resource development.

How to Join the Webinar: Adobe Connect Registration Web Link:

<https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/certrd1/event/registration.html>

Please register for the event. Be sure to test your Adobe Connect connection prior to the meeting. This webinar will offer closed captioning. We hope that you will be able to join us on April 22! If you can't make it, we will be posting the recording, transcript, and slide deck of the presentation on this page, under "Citizen Corps Partners/Affiliates": <http://www.ready.gov/preparedness-leader/webinar-library>

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAKE ALFRED Mission Trip to Ganthier, Haiti with the Foundation for Peace: August 6-15. Deadline for admission is Sunday, April 19. For more information, email Hank Belusa at debbieandhank@msn.com. For more information about the Foundation for Peace, go to www.foundationforpeace.org.

CHURCH ON THE BAYOU AND PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

In April 2014 severe storms caused extensive damage and flooding to property owners in the Florida panhandle. Almost a year later the FEMA dollars have finally arrived and the work of reconstruction can begin. Pastor Kathy Dain and the Church on the Bayou of Tarpon Springs are organizing a mission trip to Pensacola from May 31 to June 4 to help in the recovery process. Church on the Bayou is looking for mission partners who would like to participate in the trip. The work will involve light to moderate construction and there is room for up to 12 volunteers. For more information please call Kathy Dain at 727-937-3795 or email her at pastorkdain@churchonthebayou.org.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES CEDARKIRK

OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, May 2, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Zip-lining, rock wall, archery, s'mores, hay rides, camp tours. For more information:

<http://cedarkirk.org/programs/open-house/>

FLORIDA PRESBYTERIAN PILGRIMAGE

The next Pilgrimage Weekend is April 30-May2, 2015 at The Retreat at Silver Springs, Fl. Details about this spirit-filled weekend, and to make application, please email David d'Albany at david.dalbany@gmail.com. Website: <http://floridacursillo.org/>

28th ANNUAL ASSOCIATION OF SMALLER CONGREGATIONS CONFERENCE

"New Creation through Spiritual Growth and Prayer," Keynoter: David Loleng. May 4-6, 2015 at Epworth by the Sea at St. Simon's Island. For more information and to register, look on the homepage of our presbytery's website under "Good Stuff." www.presbyteryoftampabay.com