



e-News from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay  
4704 Kelly Road, Tampa, Florida 33615  
April 30, 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.*

It's hard to believe that we're saying goodbye to April and hello to May!  
"Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart." Psalm 90:12

### **CALLED PRESBYTERY MEETING**

The Coordinating Team of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay has called a special Presbytery meeting for Thursday, May 14, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Presbytery office, 4704 Kelly Road, Tampa, 33615.

The purposes of the meeting are as follows:

- 1) To hear and respond to the report of the Administrative Commission working with Westminster Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg, FL to dissolve the church.
- 2) To hear a report from Nominations and vote on its nominees to Commissions or Committees in the presbytery.

Please make every effort to be present at this meeting. Registration will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the front desk of the office as you walk in the front doors.

### **SOMETHING FOR PASTORS**

From Patrice Hatley to Teaching Elders: ***You are invited to participate in Holy Conversation along with Presbytery pastor peers on Wednesday morning, May 20.*** It will be a time for prayers, devotions, and conversation about the challenges you as pastors are facing in this time of denominational change. All Teaching Elders are welcome, but especially those serving congregations seeking clarity and guidance in these matters. Please gather at the Presbytery office at 9:30am on Wednesday May 20. No RSVP is needed, just feel free to come and be fully present.

### **GREAT THOUGHTS FROM HEATH RADA, PCUSA MODERATOR**

Patrice encourages, no, urges us to read the following for its wisdom and inspiration. Our congregations need to read this. Include it in your bulletins and newsletters! "What I Am Seeing and Hearing Across the Church: Moderator's Statement."

<http://pres-outlook.org/2015/04/what-i-am-seeing-and-hearing-across-the-church-moderators-statement/>

### **CEDARKIRD OPEN HOUSE THIS SATURDAY, MAY 2!**

On May 2nd, from 1:00-5:00 pm, Cedarkirk will offer an Open House. Come out and enjoy all we have to offer! Contact the camp for more information: website: [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org); email: [camps@cedarkirk.org](mailto:camps@cedarkirk.org); phone: 813-685-4224, extension 2.

**Pastors Bill Cowfer and Virginia Martin, St. Petersburg, Florida share the following story:**

Last Sunday, the day following the tragic earthquake in Nepal, a couple we had never met arrived for the worship service at Westminster Presbyterian Church, St. Pete. We asked whether they lived in the community or were visiting the area. They said, "We're from Kathmandu, Nepal." We asked them what brought them to St. Pete. There were here to celebrate the birth of their new-born grandson. Their daughter lives near the church.

We learned the husband is an interpreter for Wycliffe Bible Translators and we understand his wife is a health provider or medical doctor in a hospital in Kathmandu. She was born in Burma and he in India. They met and married in Nepal. They wanted us to know that they have a Presbyterian Church in Kathmandu.

We are at a total loss to describe the intensity of our mixed emotions of welcoming them to worship, celebrating the joy of a new-born grandson, and sharing the grief and pain of such catastrophic destruction and loss of life in their home town and nation. We know you as we join the countless faithful around the world by embracing them and all in Nepal in our prayers, and reaching out in any ways we can. One Great Hour of Sharing is helping through the World Relief and Emergency Service. Grace, Peace and Prayers  
Pastors Bill Cowfer and Virginia Martin

### **HELPING THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL:**

There IS something we can do. Please follow this link to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance page to learn what the PCUSA is doing in Nepal and how we can help them. <http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/nepal-earthquake-april-2015/> When you get to the PDA site, you will learn about the latest news, and how you may give, act, and pray. Please share this with your congregations.

### **Come to the Waters: Horizons 2015-16 Bible Study Leader Training**

The Center for Lifelong Learning at Columbia Seminary will offer once again two sessions of this popular seminar. The weekday course will take place August 2-4, and the weekend course August 14-15. *Come to the Waters* promises leaders of Presbyterian Women Circles and church school study groups alike nine lessons exploring key references to water in our Scriptures.

The rich imagery of water throughout the Bible helps us understand and articulate our faith. Just as water nourishes our bodies, so the scriptures on water nourish our souls. Together, we will explore some of the Bible's 800 references to water.

The study will consider the waters of chaos in Genesis, and the River of Life in the last chapter of Revelation, where chaos is no more. Water plays a central role in the stories of creation, the delivery of God's people (through the parting of the Red Sea and the crossing of the Jordan River), judgment of a people weak in faith, and the adoption of the people of God through baptism. Sometimes there is too much water (think Noah) and sometimes there is too little water (think drought in the desert).

The weekday class, Aug. 2-4, will be led by 2015 study guide author, the Rev. Judy R. Fletcher. A retired teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Judy has served as a director of Christian education in North Carolina and as pastor in churches in Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma. In her last two parishes she served as co-pastor with her husband, J. David Fletcher, and then served for 14 years as the synod executive in the e Synod of the Sun. She has served as keynote speaker, director, and

preacher for conferences at every governing body level of the denomination, and written a variety of materials for the PC (USA), the ELCA and United Church of Christ.

The weekend class, Aug. 14-15, will be led by Linda Morningstar, former associate director of Lifelong Learning and popular workshop leader and speaker. Morningstar holds a master's degree in theological studies from Columbia Theological Seminary. She has led many weekend seminars to prepare leaders for the upcoming Presbyterian Women's Horizons Bible study, and lead Bible courses and women's retreats, with such themes as *"Reading" Biblical Art; Receiving the Gift of Order in Chaos; Being Called - Or Not; Yikes- I've Been Asked to Pray Aloud*, and *How to Choose A Bible*.

***Early registration discounts are available for both courses through May 31. After June 1, discounts for 2+ persons from the same group are offered.***

For weekday event registration:

<https://app.certain.com/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x2036668edaa>

For weekend event registration:

<https://app.certain.com/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x2038188a3c5>

For additional information, contact Sarah Erickson, Director of Lifelong Learning, at [404-687-4526](tel:404-687-4526) [orericksons@ctsnet.edu](mailto:orericksons@ctsnet.edu).

***Until next time, the peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.***