



Our Mission:

To identify and strengthen leaders so that every congregation makes new and mature disciples for Jesus Christ.

Better Know a Presbyter

In a favorite wedding reading, the Teacher of Ecclesiastes says, "a cord of three strands is not quickly broken" (NIV, Ecc. 4:12b). When we're connected to each other, we're stronger. When we're sharing know-how and skills and resources with one another, the whole Church benefits.

In order for this exchange to happen though, we have to get to know one another. That means coming to meetings, gatherings, and being involved in the alphabet soup that is the PC(USA) community. And we have to do more than say hi at these gatherings; if we're going to truly be the "connectional church", then we need to connect with each other: share successes and challenges, best practices and war stories. Get to know each other.

Along those lines, I recently ran into Andy Walton, the new pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Clearwater. Andy taught me a new trick for church websites, and I thought I was the expert there! We'll cover that resource in a week or two, but since we have to spend time getting to know each other in order to benefit from each other's experience, first take a few minutes and get to know Andy. He recounts some interesting experiences about his time spent serving three blocks from Capital Hill:



As always, if you've got a resource, tip, praise or just a really interesting story you want to share, please, let me know!

Rev. Dave Baker,
Stated Clerk and Director of Communications
Presbytery of Tampa Bay



Prayer Concerns

Passing of Jack Alwood's Father

Bob Alwood, father of Rev. Jack Alwood of Crystal River PC, died Friday night, Oct 30. He had made it home following heart valve replacement to the suffolk, VA facility's nursing unit but had a fall out of bed and could not be revived. He wanted to go quickly and he did. Bob was an active Christian and church member all his life. He is survived by wife Frances, brother Richard, sons Jack and David and daughter Jennie Zehmer.

A service of remembrance will be held Wed, November 11 at 3 pm at Suffolk Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, donations can go to your church's building/memorial fund.

Memorial Service for Don Wassinger

The service to remember and celebrate Don Wassinger will be held at [Palm Harbor Presbyterian Church](#) on Sunday November 15th, at 2pm.

Donald R. Wassinger, Jr., passed away suddenly on Oct. 6, 2015, the day after his 62nd birthday. A graduate of Temple University, Biblical Theological Seminary and Princeton Seminary, he was the devoted pastor of Elkin's Park Presbyterian Church, PA for 25 years. Since then, he has served as an interim pastor in 3 congregations in Pennsylvania and Florida. His most recent call was Interim Pastor for Presbyterian Church of Palm Harbor, FL.

News From Around the Presbytery

Board of Pensions Training Events

The Board of Pensions annual training events for Florida will be in Sarasota this year. The excellent "Board University" classes are designed to help pastors, church treasurers and administrators navigate the tax code and retirement issues. On a personal note, I've been to 2 of these 3 before and found them to be quite helpful.

The seminars will be held at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church in Sarasota, FL in mid-January 2016. Registration is now open online, but is limited. Please see details and the flyers for each event below:

January 12-13: Growing into Tomorrow...Today
(pre-retirement planning for lay and clergy members)
[See the Flyer](#)

January 14: Render unto Caesar
(terms of call and clergy tax issues for treasurers and administrators, and active clergy)
[See the Flyer](#)

January 15: Post-Retirement seminar
(retirement living matters for lay and clergy retirees and surviving covered partners)
[See the Flyer](#)

"Join the Conversation"

If you missed it last week, please see the details for participating in the new changes at the General Assembly level below. The deadline for getting feedback to the Committee on the General Assembly is December 18th:

Discuss the identity and purpose of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as part of a church-wide conversation initiated by the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly. "Please share your insights, wisdom, hopes and dreams for the PC(USA)," said Margaret Elliott, moderator of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly. "Through careful listening and honest sharing we can create a church for this time and place." Talk individually or in groups using a discussion guide downloadable at pcusa.org/discussionguide. Hear how to walk through using the guide on information call:

*Monday, November 9, 8-9 p.m. (EST)
Use call in (800) 231-0316, or (314) 696-0504 for international participants*

*Also share thoughts using an online form available until **December 18th** at pcusa.org/identity, and join Larissa Kwong Abazia, Vice Moderator of the 221st General Assembly (2014), in Twitter chats. She'll be @LarissaLKA using the hashtag #pcusaidentity on:*

Thursday, November 12, 9-10 p.m. (EST)

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) will use much of the information gathered to collectively discern God's call for the church. Contact oga.communications@pcusa.org for questions or more information.

Click on Heath Rada's picture below for more information:



Click on his picture to read the letter from GA Moderator Heath Rada

Keystone Resources

If there is a bright spot about closing a church, perhaps it's that we can share resources with each other:



The Administrative Commission for Keystone Presbyterian Church invites you to the church property at 7509 Van Dyke Road, Odessa, FL, 33556 on Saturday, November 14, from 9:00 a.m. to noon for a "garage sale." We will set aside resources, furniture, books, hymnals, etc. for the churches in the Presbytery of Tampa Bay to determine if you can use them for your

ministries. The AC is asking for donations for these things-low prices on most, perhaps some things will be free.



November 14 is the only day we have planned to open the church to you. Inquiries can be sent to pastor@standrewnewtampa.org, Laurie Palmer, Chair, Keystone Administrative Commission.

Presbytery Meeting Reminders

Mark your calendar for the upcoming Presbytery meeting at [Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church](#) in Tampa, November 19th from 4pm to 8pm! Parking will almost certainly be an issue, so please plan to leave early and car pool, then watch this space for more details closer to the meeting!

Additionally, please note that all reports to the Presbytery are due on November 9th!

For those of you who *really* like to plan ahead, the Presbytery meetings for 2016 will be held on February 27th and November 17th at Beth-El and First Lakeland, respectively.

Celebrate Denise McLeod's Ordination

Join your fellow Presbyters at [Trinity Presbyterian Church in St. Pete](#) on Sunday November 8th, 2015 at 4pm to participate in Denise's ordination! There will be a small reception afterwards. Minister members from the West region are especially encouraged to attend.

PC Bloomingdale 25th Anniversary

You are cordially invited to the
25th Anniversary Service
Of the
Presbyterian Church of Bloomingdale
Groundbreaking
November 15, 2015
10:15 am
710 East Bloomingdale Avenue, Brandon FL 33511
A Family Thanksgiving Reception following service
Come and celebrate family, foundation, and roots
RSVP by November 6, 2015 to secretary.pcob@gmail.com

Mission Opportunities

Florida Disaster Recovery

Volunteers are needed in Northwest Florida to help rebuild homes affected by flooding from storms in Spring 2014. These storms caused major flooding in the panhandle and damaged several hundred homes.

Through the Presbytery of Florida, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been supporting the Okaloosa and Walton Counties Long Term Recovery Committee with volunteers and a \$20,000 grant to help them finish the remaining homes that need repairs. If there is a small group of willing volunteers from your church, it would be so wonderful if they could help.

Projects include flooring, drywall installation and finishing, painting and light roofing work. Volunteer groups will be scheduled through February 2016.

For more information, please contact Kathy Broyard at fla.pdan@pcusa.org or 941-483-0675.

Drought in Honduras

Our brothers and sisters in Honduras need our help! The drought in the south and central sections of Honduras has been severe; some of our Presbyterian families are subsisting on tortillas and green mangos. Pray for the Lord to help them and provide rain.

If you'd like to be part of the solution directly, please donate to Honduras Hunger Relief. \$16 will supply a family with food. Five hundred Presbyterian families are affected by the drought, and 100% of the money received will be used to buy food distributed by the Presbyterian Women of Honduras.

Make checks out to the Presbytery of Tampa Bay and send them directly to the Presbytery office. Please remember to put "Honduras Hunger Relief" in the memo section of the check. Thank you.

Beth-El Food Pantry In Need!

Beth-El's Food Pantry has an immediate need for canned goods, rice and pinto beans. Their regular deliveries have been down, and the pantry is practically bare. If you can help, please call the mission at 813-633-1548. !Gracias!

Cedarkirk Youth Retreat

Calling all youth groups! On November 13th-15th, Cedarkirk is offering a new youth event called Fusion designed for both middle school and high school groups. Rev. Loli Reiter will be our keynote speaker and preacher as we explore how we can live boldly for God.



You can find out more and even register your group at www.cedarkirk.org/programs/youthretreat/.

Cedarkirk

Adopt a Family from Beth-El

If you're looking for Christmas mission projects and ways to support Beth-El, I recommend you take a moment to learn more about the "Adopt a Family" program there. Here's the link:

Job Opportunities

First PC Inverness Job Openings:

Part-Time Directory of Youth Ministry

Are you passionate about serving Jesus Christ? Do you have experience leading and sharing your Christian faith with middle school and high school youth? Do you have the talents, creativity and commitment to develop, coordinate, and schedule youth activities and ministries? Do you want to be a part of a loving, welcoming, dynamic and exciting church?

Part-Time Director of Christian Education

Are you passionate about serving Jesus Christ? Do you have experience developing, implementing, and supervising programs of Christian education which can nurture the faith of persons of all ages, from preschool through adulthood? Do you want to be a part of a loving, welcoming, dynamic and exciting church?

If one of these positions is appealing to you, the First Presbyterian Church of Inverness would love to hear from you! For more information and/or to apply, contact Pastor Ron Pfeifer at (352) 637-0770. The First Presbyterian Church of Inverness is an equal opportunity employer.

Employment Opportunities at Cedarkirk

Cedarkirk is currently seeking to fill a variety of positions (part-time kitchen and housekeeping roles and a full-time Capital Campaign Director). Please visit www.cedarkirk.org/who-we-are/employment/ for more information.

Job Info

2 Musical Job Openings at St. Mark's in Hudson:

SMPC is looking for a part-time organist and part-time director of music. Send inquiries to: [hiring@stmarksfl.org](mailto: hiring@stmarksfl.org). For detailed position descriptions, see below:

Job Info

Presbytery of Tampa Bay | 813 868 4800 | presbyteryoftampabay.com

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