



## ***Our Mission:***

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

# From Your Coach Coordinator

## Cuba- A Beginning Conversation with Tampa Bay

**Prayers Requested** - As you are reading this, Moderator Marsha Rydberg and I - will be in Cuba, on your behalf. As far as we know, this will be the first formal conversation between 3 presbyteries in Florida and the leadership of the 3 presbyteries in Cuba, along with the leadership of their Seminary in Matanzas, in 50 years. The Presbyteries of Tropical Florida, Peace River and Tampa Bay will form a delegation to Cuba for this occasion.

Also, prayers for Pope Francis and the Russian Orthodox Patriarch, who will also be meeting in Cuba, for a first conversation between these 2 churches in over 1000 years [\(click here\)](#).



Picture (right) Students from the [Matanzas Evangelical Theological Seminary](#)

**The How and Why of this trip - some background** - In November the Presbytery of Tampa Bay was invited, with the other presbyteries in Florida, to consider meeting with the Presbyterian (IPRC) leadership in Cuba. The Coordinating Team of the Presbytery authorized Marsha and me to go on this bridge-building trip from February 10-15 with representatives from Peace River and Tropical Florida Presbyteries. The meetings and conversations will be held at the Presbyterian Seminary at Matanzas

We will be meeting with the leadership from the three presbyteries of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba (IPRC) and Seminary officials. The three Cuban presbyteries and their seminary have survived difficult challenges, namely keeping their faith communities active and vibrant during the current government regime. They have faced many extremes but have sustained their Christian community. Dr. Arce, President of the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba in a "[Pictorial Essay](#)" [\(click here\)](#) provides a helpful perspective on the role of the seminary in Cuba

today. Also, so some additional background on our partner church in Cuba: The Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba (IPRC) is included below.

We will end our trip in Havana and be housed in a local Presbyterian church. We expect to worship with and learn from our Cuban brothers and sisters in Christ. I am sure Marsha and I will have much to report when we see you all at the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery on February 27, 2016!

Thank you for your prayers as we begin this conversation,  
Patrice Hatley, Presbytery of Tampa Bay Coach and Coordinator



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**Some background on our partner church in Cuba: The Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba (IPRC).**

In 1890 Evaristo P. Collazo started churches in Havana and Santa Clara. In the same year he became acquainted with a Presbyterian from the United States, Anthony T. Graybill. By 1918 the friendship of these two men had given birth to a Presbyterian Church in Cuba related to the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.'s National Mission program. The relationship with the U.S. church was so strong that until the time of the Cuban revolution in 1959 Cuba was part of the Synod of New Jersey. In 1967 the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba (IPRC) was established as an autonomous denomination.

While no diplomatic relationships between the United States and Cuba have existed for many years, the two churches have maintained a close relationship. A Mutual Mission Agreement adopted by both General Assemblies celebrates the unity of Christ, a common Reformed tradition, and the sharing in "one Lord, one faith, and one baptism." The Agreement details a commitment to sharing and exchange.

The IPRC has three presbyteries and a synod. New energy is felt all over Cuba as the Cuban people are returning to their Christian roots or are joining the Christian community for the first time. Although the IPRC has highly trained and skilled leaders and church schoolteachers, there are too few to meet the increasing needs. Theological and Christian education are high priorities for the Cuban church. Each year a curriculum is written and sent to all churches and workshops provide training for new leaders. Throughout the years the women's organization has given strength and vitality to the church. Women pastors are accepted and valued for their leadership and faithfulness. The church in Cuban society today has

become an important place for those who are searching for meaning and spirituality. The IPRC is moving into new areas of pastoral ministry to meet the needs and concerns.



*Picture (left)  
The church in  
Luyanó is  
building an  
underground  
cistern to  
provide more  
clean water to*



*the surrounding community. Picture (right) of the Chapel of [Matanzas Evangelical Theological Seminary](#) - where we will be meeting.*

**So what is happening to the IPRC in recent years?** P. P. Daniel Izquierdo Hernandez, general secretary, IPRC wrote: "For many years the church in Cuba was not allowed to work outside its walls-no outreach ministry was permitted by an atheistic government that assumed all needs could be provided by the state. After the '90s, the global situation changed and our churches were once again involved in programs to help the communities. Our service was again visible to the society. Cuban churches have many needs in terms of infrastructure, buildings, and other materials; nevertheless, we have taken up this new ministry with courage and a willingness to serve

**A brief history of Cuba** ([Click here](#)) and the link to the Cuba Mission Partnership web-page ([Click here](#)).

Many thanks to Peace River's Graham Hart for assembling this very interesting material.

Patrice

Patrice Hatley,  
Presbytery Coach and Coordinator  
Presbytery of Tampa Bay

## Pastoral Concern

### Passing of Rev. Phil Germaine

It is with sadness that I share the news of our friend in Christ Phil Germaine's death. Phil was pastor of Rio Vista Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg for

many years. Information about his life and upcoming memorial service is below (taken from Glendale News-Press, 2/10/16).



**July 14, 1931 - February 4, 2016**

Rev. Phillip Gerald Germaine, 84, born in Detroit, MI July 14, 1931, went to be with the Lord and reunite with wife, Carol, Feb. 4, 2016. He graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1956, and received a Masters of Divinity in 1972. In his ministry, he served across the country including Pennsylvania, Michigan, California, Wisconsin and Florida where he honorably retired in 1996. He is survived by his brother, Lawrence (wife, Bonnie); children, Scott, Laura, Michelle, and David; grandchildren, Christopher, Miranda, and Rachael; and nieces, Tracie and Karen.

A celebration of his life will be held Saturday, Feb. 13 at 1 pm at Bon Secours Maria Manor, 10300 4th St. N., St. Petersburg, 33716.

## News From Around the Presbytery

### Upcoming Presbytery Meeting

The next meeting of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay is coming up on Saturday February 27th. It will be held at [Beth-El Farm Worker Ministries](#) from 9am to 3pm. This meeting will feature training by [Rev. Dr. Bill Carl](#), former President of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, as well as leadership development oriented breakout groups. These Breakouts will include:

- Rev. Dr. Bill Carl
- Tour of Beth-El Farmworker's Ministry

- Spiral Dynamics as it relates to Church and Evangelism, Adam Balic
  - Using MissionInsite, Zac McGowen and Robert Shaw
  - Website Feedback Listening Session, David Baker

The Presbytery Packet will be on the website by the afternoon of Friday, February 19th, and will also be published via email.

Remember to elect commissioners!

Childcare will be available, but only if reserved by February 15th.

Also, if you would like to reserve a table at the meeting to promote a ministry, or have a report to file, the deadline is February 15th.

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## Website Feedback Groups

One of the things that the Stated Clerk and Communications Director (me) is supposed to be doing is redesigning the Presbytery website. I believe most of us agree that the web could be used more effectively to assist each of our ministries, and the ministry of the Presbytery.

To that end, I and the Tech Team appointed to help with this task would like to hear from you about what changes you might like to see as part of this process. We'll be having at least 2 listening sessions, one at the upcoming Presbytery meeting, and another in a webinar format. If there is interest, we'll hold additional sessions.

We'll also be disseminating an online survey and conducting interviews with those who are most often using the website. This isn't meant to be a cosmetic change, but a way to truly make the most of modern technology in support of our ministries. So if you have ideas or frustrations, or just want to be part of the conversation, I'd encourage you to take part in the online survey (when available) and one of the feedback sessions.

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## Complete Presbytery Devotional

It's finally complete!

If you're looking for devotionals to do before a session meeting or personally, your fellow servants in Christ have got you covered.

This year, we're publishing a devotional for the Presbytery, by the Presbytery. Twelve generous pastors have each done a one page devotional

for one month of 2016. You can download it below:

[Presbytery Devotional, 2016](#)

A big thanks to Rev. Robert Shaw for organizing this!

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## Presbyterian Women Annual Gathering

The PW Annual Gathering will be at 10am on February 20th at [St. Andrews Dunedin Presbyterian Church](#). There will be Reports from the Church-wide Gathering and conversations with Dr. John Fullerton and Marsha Rydberg, current presbytery moderator, about the past/present/future of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay.

[See the flyer](#) for more details.

To register, contact Sharon Paup:  
[sharonpaup821@gmail.com](mailto:sharonpaup821@gmail.com)

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## A Very Presbyterian Request

As so many of our churches seem willing to share their old musical resources, First Auberndale would like to request the accompaniment book to "Sing the Faith" for their organist. They have tried to order it but it is on backorder. Do any of our generous churches have a old copy that they are no longer using? If so, please contact the office administrator at FPC Auberndale, Nicole Smith: [office@firstpresaub.com](mailto:office@firstpresaub.com)

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## Presbytery Forms for 2016

New forms for the new year! Find the new forms for reporting to Presbytery below, and on the website.

- [2016 F-1 \(Terms of call\)](#)
- [2016 Remittance Form](#)
- [2016 Mission Pledge Form](#)

**Mission Opportunities**

## Honduras

The Presbytery of Tampa Bay has a covenant relationship with the Presbytery of Honduras. Your International Mission Partnership Committee (IMPC) acts as a liaison between the two presbyteries. We have learned the four year drought in southern Honduras shows no sign of letting up. The congregations in that area are suffering because of crop loss.

Other churches in the presbytery of Honduras offer some relief with bags of staples, but their resources are very limited. The IMPC has sent money on your behalf to help but their resources are also limited. If you or your church feels led to help us feed our brothers and sisters in Honduras, write a check to your church and earmark it Presbytery of Tampa Bay Honduras hunger relief. Bendiciones!

## Upcoming Workshops

### Prepare Enrich Training

If you're not familiar with Prepare/Enrich, it's perhaps the most effective tool for premarital and marital counseling that I am aware of. If you are a Teaching Elder, I would very highly recommend that you take advantage of this training, hosted by our own Rev. Bill Cooley.

There will be 2 opportunities to receive training: 9am to 3:30pm March 17th at the Career and Personal Counseling Center located at Maximo Presbyterian Church, and again from 9am to 3:30pm on April 22nd at the Presbytery Office. The total cost of the training is \$195, although the CCV has made scholarships available for Teaching Elders for 50% of the cost. Please contact Bill Cooley for more information: [pastorbillhome@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbillhome@gmail.com).

RSVP at these links: [March 17th](#) or [April 22nd](#).

Learn more about Prepare/Enrich by clicking below:



## Bi-vocational Ministry Conference

This event is for ministers serving or seeking to serve in a bi-vocational ministry context, as well as governing body or judicatory leaders who work with ministers who serve in such contexts.

April 15-16, 2016  
Epworth by the Sea, St. Simon's Island, GA

For more info, please click on this picture to see the flyer:



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## Dubuque Seminary Online Continuing Ed

Five-week study from home classes designed to inspire, engage and sustain your work in the church.

### **"The Christian Imagination: Exploring Faith in Literature"**

*Dr. Timothy Slemmons, Associate Professor of Homiletics and Worship  
February 8 - March 13, 2016*

Enhance our preaching by examining selected contributions from across the breadth of the historical and literary landscape: J.R.R. Tolkein, C.S. Lewis, Flannery O'Connor, Annie Dillard, Madeline L'Engle, Frederick Buechner, Wendell Berry

### **"The Brain, the Body, and Spiritual Disciplines"**

*Dr. Susan Forshey, Assistant Professor of Discipleship and Christian Formation  
March 28 - May 1, 2016*

Places spiritual disciplines into conversation with recent brain research on

willpower and habit formation; and offers opportunities to experiment with specific disciplines.

Cost of each class is \$150.

Please [read the flyer](#) for registration and more detailed course info.

## Job Opportunities

### Village PC Job Opening:

Custodian, Part-time up to 16 hours per week

General labor and cleaning duties so as to keep the facility buildings (church sanctuary & administrative buildings) as well as surrounding grounds in clean and safe condition.

Successful applicant must pass Level 2 Background Screening prior to hire, possess valid Florida driver's license, and have reliable transportation (with proof of insurance).

Send resumes to [suegoldstein.vpc@gmail.com](mailto:suegoldstein.vpc@gmail.com)

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### Temple Terrace PC Job Opening:

#### Leader of Youth Ministry and Christian Education

Do you know someone interested in "reaching and inspiring youth, within our congregation and through community outreach by creative programs promoting Christian growth and spiritual development"?

Temple Terrace Presbyterian Church seeks to hire an enthusiastic individual as our Leader of Youth Ministry and Christian Education.

For more information see: <http://www.ttpresbyterian.com/new-leader-of-youth-ministry-and-christian-education/>

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### 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

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Presbytery of Tampa Bay | [813 868 4800](tel: 813 868 4800) | [presbyteryoftampabay.com](http://presbyteryoftampabay.com)

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