



### ***Our Mission:***

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

## **A Pair of Losses**

### **Passing of Isabel "Sammie" Sampson**



Certified Christian Educator Sammie Sampson joined the church eternal this past Sunday, March 13th. She died peacefully in her sleep. Sammie was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) and was very active in the Presbytery. She will be greatly missed.

The Memorial Service will be held at [Christ Presbyterian Church of Largo](#) on April 3rd at 1pm.

For more information about Sammie, the impact of her life and ministry, please [read this excellent obituary](#).

### **Passing of Rev. Gehrald Riesen**

Rev. Gerry Riesen passed away last week at Westminster Suncoast after a long battle with Alzheimer's. After a few years as an architect, Gerry spent 41 years in ministry, mostly in the Mid-West. 13 years ago, Gerry retired to Florida with his wife of 64 years, Yvonne. Gerry was 87.

The Memorial Service will be held on April 2nd at 2pm in the main building of [Westminster Suncoast](#).

In Christ,

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

## **News From Around the Presbytery**



### **Young Voices of Africa Evening Concert**

The African Children's Choir is on a mission to generate hope, healing and justice for the vulnerable children of Africa caught up in areas of conflict and crisis, to enable these children to become change makers in Africa.

The Concert will be held at the Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church at Downtown Clearwater on April 1, 7PM. Doors open at 6:30. No tickets needed and seating is first come, first served.

You will be thrilled by an inspiring program of choral music from their native countries, with the added drama of colorful costumes and dancing. Please join us to support these beautiful children.

[Click here](#) for more information.



### West Region Joint Services at Gulfport Beach

Come join local Presbyterian Churches for the **3rd Annual Good Friday Service** at Gulfport Beach at noon. Lakeview, Trinity, Gulfport, Good Samaritan and Woodlawn Churches will be joining us, and this year Maximo Presbyterian Church may also participate!

The service is hosted by Gulfport Presbyterian Church and Rev. Micki Robinson. The venue will be the pavilion near the casino. In case of rain, please come to the church instead: [5313, 27th Ave S Gulfport](http://5313, 27th Ave S Gulfport).

You can bring your beach or lawn chairs if you have them!

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### Presbytery of Tampa Bay Gathering at GA

222nd Meeting of the General Assembly is coming up in June. The Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate from Tampa Bay are registered and have received their committee assignments. Now, for all you others who are interested in attending GA in beautiful Portland Oregon, please check out this link: [www.pcusa.org/ga222](http://www.pcusa.org/ga222).

If you do decide to go to Portland, please do let Patrice Hatley [Patrice@pbty.com](mailto:Patrice@pbty.com) know of your plans as soon as possible. We will be hosting folks from Tampa Bay for dinner together on Tuesday evening June 21 and would like to include you in our reservation. Since that is the only night Commissioners have free, there will be many Presbyteries attempting to make large group restaurant reservations, so we need to know of your interest in participating by no later than April 29.

And, yes, please be in prayer for our church and the commissioners who will be working very hard to prepare and participate on our behalf!



## Cuba!

Coach and Coordinator Patrice Hatley and Moderator Marsha Rydberg are extending their invitation to a conversation about the recent visit to Cuba and most importantly about developing relationship with our brothers and sisters in the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba (Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada en Cuba). We will enjoy some Cuban pastries and conversation together at the Presbytery of Tampa Bay office located at 4704 Kelly Rd, Tampa on **Tuesday, April 5 from 1:30-3:00 pm.**

Information about the Cuban Partnership Network will be discussed. There is an opportunity coming in October to join other PC(USA) people from around the US in a relationship-building trip to Cuba. The visit will include the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas as well as churches in all three Cuban Presbyteries.

We are blessed with the presence of many Cuban-Americans among us in the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, exiles from their homeland. We can learn more about their experiences and life stories, too, as we seek to come together by the GRACE of God! Marsha Rydberg speaks Spanish, so if you need assistance in communication during our time together, she is a great help!

Please let Ann Marie Fizzano know if you plan to come so we may have plenty of refreshments to offer! You may reach her through email at [office@pbty.com](mailto:office@pbty.com) or by calling the office at [\(813\) 868-4800](tel:813-868-4800).

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## Ordination and Installation of Denise Lay

You're invited to attend a worship service and reception for our newest Minister member. Denise Lay will be ordained and installed at 3pm on Palm Sunday, March 20th, at [First Presbyterian Church of Zephyrhills](#). Teaching Elders especially are encouraged to come and show support for their colleague in ministry.

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### A Free Retreat of Respite and Renewal for Church Professionals & Their Families

Are you looking for a moment to rest and recharge after Holy Week and Easter?

Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center has the event for you. We invite all church professionals and their families serving in Peace River or Tampa Bay Presbyteries to enjoy a time of Sabbath in the beauty of God's creation. Come be our guest for this two-night, three-day event designed to give you plenty of time for rest and relaxation. The schedule is flexible allowing you to hike, study, and worship or enjoy times of quiet solitude in the beauty of God's creation.

The event begins at 11:00 am on Monday, March 28th, and concludes at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, March 30th. Private bedrooms and all meals (Monday lunch through Wednesday lunch) are provided. Whether you can come for a day or all three days, you won't want to miss this opportunity for Sabbath at Cedarkirk. Please contact the camp office at  [\(813\) 685-4224 ext. 2](tel:(813)685-4224) or [info@cedarkirk.org](mailto:info@cedarkirk.org) to make your reservations for this free event.

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## Website Feedback Survey

Please take a moment to fill out this survey:

[Presbytery Website Feedback Survey](#)

This survey will help drive the conversation about how the Presbytery website can best help you and your church. If you're getting this newsletter, you're encouraged to take the survey, even if you're not a pastor or elder. It should take less than 10 minutes to do.

We'll also be conducting interviews with those who are most often using the website. We don't want this update to merely be a cosmetic upgrade, 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 above and one of the feedback sessions (Presbytery breakout or webinar).

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## Handbell Request

Forest Hills Presbyterian Church is looking for a set of handbells to expand their music program. Does your church have hand bells that need a new home? Please contact Forest Hills PC at  [\(813\)932-6149](tel:(813)932-6149) or [office@fhpctampa.org](mailto:office@fhpctampa.org).

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## Joint Services Between FPC Port Richey and Trinity Seven Springs

Isn't it great when Presbyterians do things together? [First Presbyterian Church of Port Richey](#) will be participating in the Tenebrae Worship Service at [Trinity Presbyterian Church of Seven Springs](#), at 7 p.m. on Maundy Thursday, March 24; FPC will then host a Good Friday service with participation from Trinity at 12 p.m. on March 25.

First Church Port Richey also proudly presents "[A Classical Concert](#)" featuring internationally acclaimed concert pianist Grigorios Zamparas (with special guest Carolyn Heagey) on Sunday, March 20, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Admission: A Love Offering (suggested donation: \$5.00 - \$10.00) which will be divided between our performers and our Church Community Food Pantry. Check out [the link](#) for more info.

## Mission Opportunities

From the FLAPDAN Front



### OGHS

Did you know your **One Great Hour of Sharing** contributions are making a huge difference in our own communities? There are eight projects here in Florida which have received OGHS funds within the past year, four of which are disaster related projects supported through grants from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

- Okaloosa and Walton Counties Long Term Recovery following Spring 2014 flooding in the Florida panhandle.
- Springwater Presbyterian Church in Brandon, FL whose contents were destroyed in a July 2015 fire.
- Pasco County Long Term Recovery following Summer 2015 flooding north of Tampa.
- Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN) to continue the work of coordinating preparedness, response and recovery at the congregation, presbytery, community and state levels.

Find out more  
at <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs> or <http://pda.pcusa.org/>

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Honduras



Many thanks to those who helped to purchase a horse for Honduran Pastor Prudencio Vazques who had to walk 1 ½ hours each way over mountainous terrain to conduct services in the church he serves. Pictured above is the pastor with his horse. He is deeply appreciative.

The Presbytery of Honduras provided the International Partnership Committee (IMPC) with copies of all official papers documenting the sale of the horse for the pastor. To see more activities and pictures of events and work in Honduras, visit:

[IMPC Honduras Presbyterian Partnership Face Book Page.](#)

Anyone interested in participating in a IMPC mission trip to Honduras July 17 - 24, 2016, please contact Betty Wajdowicz at [727 596-4740](tel:7275964740). Additional participants in this multi-church group are welcome.

If you'd like to contribute otherwise, please participate in 3 cents a meal or forward checks to the Presbytery marked for Honduras food purchase.

## Upcoming Workshops

**Leveraging Your Emotions in Challenging Situations**



**MAXIMIZING THE IMPACT OF OVER 600 LEADERS IN FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS SINCE APRIL 2010!**

Do you have your emotions, or do your emotions have you? This 1.5 hour session is designed for faith community leaders who want to develop their understanding of emotions in the context of their leadership and ministry. Participants will experience ways to notice, capture, and channel your emotions instead of your emotions having a hold on you.

This webinar will be held Thursday, April 7, 2016, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a tuition of \$40. For more information and to register: [check out the website.](#)

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## Habits of the Heart for Healthy Congregations

Parker J. Palmer's "Habits of the Heart" are deeply ingrained ways of seeing, being, and responding to life that involve our minds, our emotions, our self-images, our concepts of meaning and purpose.

At this retreat you will learn **new skills for fostering leadership** - both within yourselves and among others - for the sake of **revitalizing faith communities** locally and globally. Join like-minded peers and discover ways to renew your spirit and the spirit of your community of faith. Teams are encouraged to attend together to be able to apply shared learnings in your local contexts.

The conference will take place August 1-4 near Chicago IL.

[Find out more about this conference here.](#)

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## 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.

You can receive this training on May 6th from 9am to 3:30pm 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 (email David Bonnema: [bonnema@palmaceia.org](mailto:bonnema@palmaceia.org)). Please contact Bill Cooley for more information: [pastorbillhome@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbillhome@gmail.com).

RSVP at this link: [May 6th](#)

Learn more about Prepare/Enrich by clicking below:



## Job Opportunities

### Northwood PC Job Opening:

Full Time Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Northwood Presbyterian Church seeks an enthusiastic person for ministry to our youth and their families.

Resumes may be sent to [northwoodpcsearch@yahoo.com](mailto:northwoodpcsearch@yahoo.com). Job description is available upon request at same email.

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### Korean Presbyterian Church of Tampa Job Opening:

#### Full-time or Part-Time EM Pastor

KPCT is currently seeking an EM Pastor to shepherd the Young Adult and Youth Group of high school and middle school students. The church is located at 6510 Yosemite Dr., Tampa, FL 33634.

For more information please contact Ki Choi at [kih.choi3@gmail.com](mailto:kih.choi3@gmail.com) or read the [position description](#).

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## **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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Presbytery of Tampa Bay | [813 868 4800](tel:8138684800) | [presbyteryoftampabay.com](http://presbyteryoftampabay.com)