



The Pelican



The Presbytery of Florida is called to serve God using our gifts and skills to Excite, Encourage, Equip and Empower our Congregations and Clergy in Mission and Ministry.

April/May 2008

“Let the leader be as one who serves...” (Jesus)

Luke 22:26

Yeosu Presbytery - "Food for Thought"



By, Jean Silva, Associate Executive Presbyter

I recently returned from Yeosu Presbytery in South Korea with the presbytery delegation consisting of Rev. Tae Ho Cheong of the Korean NCD in Pensacola, and Samsuk Yang of Agape NCD, Panama City and myself. Yeosu is both a city and a presbytery in southeast South Korea with which Florida Presbytery has committed to entering into a “sister partnership” for the purpose of cultural exchange and mutual support in ministry. Like many of our cities in our presbytery, the city of Yeosu is a seaside town with lots of fresh seafood, tourists and beautiful coastal scenery spread across several islands instead of two time zones. I learned three important things from the people of Yeosu Presbytery, all centered around their food:

1 – They LIVE family, community, togetherness, and sharing. We talk about family values, the Koreans LIVE it. It IS who they are. Every meal involved sitting together, often sharing a grill set into the table on which we browned

our meat, or a pot of boiling water in which each of us contributed ingredients from a huge buffet of raw vegetables, meat and seafood. We shared small dishes filled with fresh produce, seafood, sauces, that each person shared by taking some from each dish and placing it on one’s individual plate or individual rice bowl. If you’ve eaten at Dogwood Acres lately, you would understand this as “family style” serving. It was common to share a couple of Pepsis between 4-6 people.

2 – They LIVE hospitality, generosity & genuine concern for anyone they encounter! We were treated like royalty! There were some meals that I thought they would never stop bringing another plateful. At one church, we were served expensive tea from China, taken to a very nice American style restaurant to accommodate me, and sent on our way with an entourage of waving pastors and staff members as we pulled away.

Even the way that Koreans say “hello, how are you?”, “annyeong haeyo”? (pronounced “Ahn-nyong, hah-say-yoe?”), meaning, “Hello, are you safe?” conveys more than superficial concern. An English speaking church member explained to me that this greeting has continued long past the time it was used in reaction to times of occupancy by the Japanese.

3 – They LIVE lives of thanksgiving and praise to God. One pastor explained that “Korean food is food from

heaven.” Indeed, Korean food is natural – fruit, bean sprouts, shredded cabbage, sushi, meat – it is unadorned, except “kimchee” (sp?), spices on meat, and side sauces. Koreans eat with great gusto, and everything is straight from God’s bounty. No wonder there was not a single overweight South Korean!!!

One pastor remarked that it was as if his nice, but modest, SUV dropped straight from heaven. Another pastor with whom we ate several meals always had a small Korean Bible that he would pull out and read as we chatted waiting for food to arrive. Constant thanks and praise to God was demonstrated by these Korean Presbyterians.

Please join us and the Korean congregations in getting to know the **group of Korean pastors and middle and high school students who will visit Florida Presbytery in late July/early August 2008**, and return the hospitality shown to our delegation. May God richly bless this sister relationship, and may we learn from the people of Yeosu Presbytery how to live in community, hospitality and thanksgiving!



News of Our Members

Teaching is the love that first drew me to seminary. The dialogue and interaction of learning is the conversation that feeds my soul, supporting and guiding the other aspects of my ministry of care and mission.

I truly feel called to Faith Presbyterian. Throughout the process God has drawn me to you in real and powerful ways. Initially the clear, honest language of the CIF (Church Information Form) compelled me to express my interest in the position of Associate Pastor. The mission and vision of Faith matched my vision of church and ministry and the position description paired well with my experience and joy in ministry. From my first conversation with the APNC (Associate Pastor Nominating Committee), varied voices throughout my life began preparing me for a new journey with God. The APNC designed a grace-filled process during which I felt truly embraced by them and by God. My affection for the committee and the church quickly grew. Soon I realized that the mutual respect and acceptance that is the hallmark of Christian community was growing; we truly appreciated each other for our gifts, talents, and human frailties. With that realization I knew that, with the love of God and family, I could share my whole heart with Faith Presbyterian. As a family we are ready to have the preliminary part of this process behind us, so that we can tell the whole world about Faith Presbyterian!

May the face of God shine on us all in this and all the transitions of our lives!

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is pleased to present to the congregation its recommendation to issue a call to



Rev. Bea Copeland

We invite you to join us at Faith Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee April 20th at 3:00 pm (EDT) for the Installation of Rev. Copeland

110 Years of Ministry

On Sunday, April 6, the Laurel Hill congregation will give thanks to God for 110 years of ministry. At a Homecoming Celebration, 11:00 worship will be led by Rev. Robert Inman and Rev. Mark Broadhead special music is planned as well. The service will be followed by a pot-luck luncheon on the church grounds. You are invited to come celebrate with the congregation! The church is located at 8115 Fourth Street in Laurel Hill.

Presbytery Budget versus Actual 1/1/08 - 2/29/08

	2008 Budget	Actual YTD	% of Annual Budget Used
Income:			
Income from Churches			
Unified Mission Giving	\$570,596.00	\$88,866.29	16%
Per Capita	\$98,553.00	\$80,099.17	81%
Income from Grants			
Partnership Funds/Synod	\$9,395.00	\$1,565.82	17%
Mission Grants/NCD	\$6,666.00	\$1,055.50	16%
HAE Grant	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	100%
Other Sources			
D/A Camp	\$90,000.00	\$1,942.50	2%
D/A Other Income		\$0.00	
Hunger Program	\$2,000.00	\$472.41	24%
Interest Earned	\$10,000.00	\$1,041.00	10%
Budget Surplus/Deficit	(\$43,725.00)	(\$13,614.88)	31%
Total Income	\$747,685.00	\$165,627.81	22%
Expenses:			
GA & Synod			
Per Capita GA	\$49,064.00	\$39,873.37	81%
Per Capita Synod	\$12,287.00	\$9,988.37	81%
Mission Giving GA	\$66,000.00	\$11,000.00	17%
Synod Giving	\$8,474.00	\$1,412.32	17%
Institutions/Other Missions			
Campus Ministry Cabinet	\$20,000.00	\$3,333.34	17%
Career & Personal Counseling Ctr	\$1,000.00	\$166.66	17%
Villa International	\$1,500.00	\$250.00	17%
Division Expenses			
Mission for Disaster Preparedness & Response	\$12,050.00	\$0.00	0%
Mission for Dogwood Acres & Outdoor Ministry	\$126,595.00	\$11,995.84	9%
Mission for Outreach	\$63,600.00	\$31,099.92	49%
Mission for Spiritual Development	\$11,540.00	\$455.63	4%
Ministry of Administration	\$326,298.00	\$48,103.82	15%
PC (USA) Ministries	\$11,130.00	\$1,764.22	16%
Governing Body	\$38,147.00	\$6,184.32	16%
Total Expenses	\$747,685.00	\$165,627.81	22%



A Report:
Alternative Spring Break Mission Trip
to Pearlinton, Mississippi
March 9 – 13, 2008

Bruce A. Chapman, Presbyterian University Minister
Presbyterian University Center-Westminster House

Pearlinton, Mississippi received much of hurricane Katrina's August 2005 wrath, bearing the brunt of the storm's landfall. It traveled squarely north through town center parallel to the adjoining Pearl River. Waters at least 12 feet high poured over, under, around and through everything; what forceful waves may have spared ferocious wind in many cases did not. Only after a few folks appeared on foot at a recovery site some miles east of Pearlinton after Katrina was that community's total loss not reconsidered.

Pockets of Pearlinton's devastation remain yet among its debris piles, building-less foundations and sets of steps leading curiously up and into invisible structures. Live oaks struggling to re-leaf gnarl above distended others among islands of unkempt underbrush; trash and litter scatter bayous and estuaries; houses in various states of ill or stages of ongoing or suspended repair stand alongside others newly rebuilt, brightly painted and happily occupied.

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) village, Pearlinton sits on a concrete slab that once served as Pearlinton's U.S. Post Office parking lot. The village moved there recently from adjoining public land where a new playground stands beside an incomplete (and strangely idle) Pearlinton Community Center. Pearlinton today prompts a series of mixed and puzzling, if not altogether troubling thoughts: victims and the advantaged, having and having-not, loss and gain, exhaustion and relief, despair and hope.



This is clearly the church's Ground Zero for service and witness now as it was Katrina's for destruction and death 30 months ago. Geographically, it is advantageous location, though, as relief workers like our 13 (9 FSU students; 4 adults) were able to work more efficiently and effectively within a surrounding few blocks rather than drive miles otherwise to and from work sites. PDA and we Presbyterians are well situated in any case among a handful of agencies whose mission is long-term relief, aid and reconstruction. We could be returning there for some years yet.

We organized ourselves into two work crews of six and seven persons, including two adults in each. Through PDA's association with a local organization, "One House at a Time" (organized like Habitat for Humanity) both teams mudded and sanded, cleaned and painted two homes' interior walls. As well, both teams installed "floating" flooring (snaps together without glue), performed trim carpentry work, swept and dusted and vacuumed and worked hard otherwise to leave their respective sites in better shape than they found them. Rewarding if tedious work, indeed that occupied all participants gainfully for three full days.

Apart from site recovery work, our team led a morning and an evening devotion (including a *cappella* singing) as well as prepared and served a full breakfast and a complete evening meal for the 60 folks who populated the PDA village with us from churches in up-state New York, Michigan, and Georgia. Several persons shared their joy with me about having young witnesses like ours present and expressed how impressed they were with their faithful work ethic—perspectives echoed by our team's adults who modeled themselves similarly also.

Although Katrina's rage has abated and its memory fades, its effects linger still among people who suffer still with needs unmet. We rejoice to consider how we may have improved others' lives in such tangible, if small ways, thanking God for your support on their behalf.

Souper Bowl of Caring 2008

Response from Florida Presbytery
Church

[Grace](#) – \$1422 for 2-cents-a-meal
[Fellowship](#) – \$373 & 221 cans of
food to ECHO

[Christ](#) - \$223.18 for ECHO

[Shalimar](#) - \$38.55 for 2 cents a
meal

[Northminster](#) – 699 lbs. of food to
Manna Food Bank

[Gretna & Woodland Churches](#) -
\$191 and bags of soup for 1st

Quincy's food pantry

[1st Lynn Haven](#) - \$260 for Catholic
Charities

[1st Quincy](#) - \$477.50 & 51 cans of
food to 1st Quincy food pantry

[Navarre](#) - \$134 to Pensacola
Loaves & Fishes

[Lafayette](#) - \$433 to ECHO

[Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church](#) –
approx. \$500 food for food pantry

[Laurel Hill](#) – 52 canned goods to
Crestview's Sharing & Caring

[Freeport](#) - \$81 & 100 cans of soup
for the Women & Children's shel-
ter in Okaloosa Co.

[1st DeFuniak Springs](#) - \$199.25
for local associated charities

[1st Marianna](#) - \$706.98 & 228
cans

[Trinity](#) – 1600 lbs. of food for
manna Food Bank

[Gulf Breeze](#) – 269 lbs. of food for
Interfaith Ministries and financial
contributions

[Pace](#) - \$300 and 2 laundry bas-
kets-full of food for Manna Food
Bank

[1st Ft. Walton Beach](#) - \$486.77 to
Opportunity, Inc. (part of the care
for homeless)

**Total - \$5826.23, 652 canned
goods + 2 laundry baskets of
food and grocery bags of food,
and 2578 lbs. of food!**

“Deniers and Hope”

By Pam McVety
Stewardship of Creation

Through a well funded campaign for more than a decade, climate skeptics caused all of us to waste valuable time in responding to climate change. By the time you read this you will have been exposed to another denial campaign, this time by the right wing think tank Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) that is intended to provoke fear about solutions to global warming.

Their campaign was scheduled to run for two weeks on CNN, CNBC and Fox News. Directly from their press release: “Global warming activists warn us about the alleged threats from global warming, but are usually silent about the much more immediate threats from global warming policies,” said CEI General Counsel Sam Kazman, also the ad co-creator. “Restricting access to affordable energy is a sure recipe for increasing poverty, disease and human misery around the world.” Check out their website at <http://cei.org/gencon/003.06435.cfm>. For the record they are part of a larger group called Cooler Heads, a subgroup of the National Consumer Coalition whose goal is “to dispel the myths of global warming by exposing flawed economic, scientific and risk analysis”.

Don't be fooled. The costs of not responding to climate change impacts have long term economic and human costs that are enormous and far exceed the costs of reducing and changing our energy usage. In Florida, Tufts University prepared a report, entitled “Florida and Climate Change: The Costs of Inaction” by Elizabeth Stanton and Frank Ackerman, November 2007. They estimated in 2006 dollars that the cost would be \$27 billion in 2025 and by 2050 \$92 billion dollars. By 2075 the costs will be \$184 billion.

These are the costs if we follow the business as usual scenario that the climate deniers are proposing. We can lower these costs by each taking steps to reduce our energy usage. A 2006 book, “Low Carbon Diet: A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds” by David Gershon is recommended to help you save energy and money. A copy has been sent to each church in the Presbytery for your use. Ask your church office or energy coordinator for it. It just doesn't list energy saving tips it guides you step by step in changing your lifestyle. For every energy saving step you take, you will learn the pounds of CO2 you save. The book guides you with style and humor. Hope you will try it and give me some feedback. I would also like to know the first person in the Presbytery who gets his or her carbon emissions down to the world average of 4 tons of carbon emissions per person per year.

As always if you have any questions, please contact me at mcvety@nettally.com



A monthly column for the church-at-large by The Reverend Joan S. Gray, Moderator of the 217th General Assembly (2006) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Cracking a Tough Nut

March 2008

Evangelism continues to be a really tough nut to crack for many Presbyterians.

We worry about our shrinking churches, but we are not comfortable, by and large, talking with people outside the church (or sometimes inside it!) about our faith.

What can we do to help change this culture of silence into one that connects with people who need to hear good news? Here are a few suggestions I have picked up around the church.

Give people in your church a chance to craft and practice their faith “elevator speech.” When I was a candidate for Moderator of the 217th General Assembly (2006), someone told me that I must be able to tell someone why they should want me to be Moderator between the time they got on an elevator with me and the time they got off. I think every Presbyterian should have an “elevator speech” in answer to questions such as, why are you a Christian? What difference does God make in your life? It would give us a jumping off place to talk about faith and help us get over our evangelistic lockjaw.

Carry a give-away Bible. Buy several small, inexpensive Bibles or Scripture portions and mark with a highlighter some passages that are particularly powerful for you in terms of the gospel message. Carry one of these around with you in your car, purse, or in your carry-on bag when you fly. If you get into a religious discussion, give the person the Bible with your blessing and invite them to read the marked passages. You can even read the passages with them to open the door to further conversation.

Pray that God will bring people across your path who need to hear of and experience God's love. Expect it to happen. Pay attention and be prepared to respond graciously and authentically. There really are people out there who are desperate to hear some good news about themselves and the world. We have that good news! If we are willing, God will use us to plant seeds of the gospel in people's lives.



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 P.O. Box 7
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NEW! – Family Camp June 6-8



**NEW Interim Summer Camp
 Director—Mike Frandsen**

Don't miss out on having a life-changing, fun-filled, amazing week at camp this summer! Get nurtured by caring, trained counselors in small group settings out in the beautiful piney woods of North Florida. Challenge yourself with archery, canoeing, hiking and swimming while also enriching yourself with faith-filled discussions, study and crafts. It is a week you will think back on all year long.

April 2008:

- 1st**—Council Mtg. @ Office
- 5th**—Trinity, Pens. 50th Annv.
- 6th**—Laurel Hill's 110th Annv.
- 10th**—COM/CPM Taskforce @ Office
 Chairs of MSD @office
 9:30 CDT
- 11th**—Pouch deadline
- 17th**—Training/Retreats @office 9:30 CDT
- 19th**—Children Committee @FWB, 1st 10:00 EDT
 PW Gathering @ Grace 10:00 CDT
- 20th**—Bea Copeland's Installation @ Faith, Pensacola 3 pm EDT
- 22nd**—Adult Committee 9:00 CDT @Marianna, 1st
- 28th**—CPM @ Terry's House in Quincy 2:00 EDT
- 29th**—Presbytery Mtg. @ Quincy

May 2008:

- 1st**—Ed Gathering @ DWA 9:30
- 6th**—Stewardship @ office
- 7th**—Min/Ed. Lunch 11:45 @ McGuire's Irish Pub & Brewery in Brewery
- 8th**—Min/Ed. Lunch 11:45 @ Marie Livingston's
- 9th**—Newsletter & Pouch Deadline
- 13th**—COM @Chipley, 1st
- 14th**—Min/Ed Lunch @11:45 at Magnolia Grill in Ft. Walton Beach
- 15th**—Min/Ed Lunch Tallahassee @ Marie Livingston's
- 26th**—Office Closed
- 29th/30th**—CPM-Annual Consult @ DWA