

Brevard Indian River Presbyterians Mission Conference

The Brevard/Indian River Presbyterians are holding their mission conference, entitled "Building with Friends" from Saturday, January 28 to Sunday, February 5. The festivities will begin with a covered dish dinner on January 28 at 6pm at Pineda Presbyterian Church, 5650 N. Wickham Rd. in Melbourne. This dinner will feature youth and pastors from the Peninsula Presbytery.

Missionaries Don & Martha Wehmeyer will join the

team speaking in a variety of churches and events during the conference. Also sharing will be speakers from the two trips to the Yucatan who visited and worked alongside our partners (who are now our friends!)

Events during this 31st year of the mission conference will cover the churches in Brevard and Indian River counties. Please contact Monia Yust, mtyust@cfl.rr.com or 321-727-0979 for a complete schedule of events.

COLE Reminder

If you missed the Church Officer and Leader Education classes we held in October, now is the time to act! The same classes will be offered again on Saturday, February 18 at Park Lake Presbyterian in Orlando.

Register by February 10 to save \$5 on registration!



Lunch and childcare provided (childcare requests must be received by February 10.)

See the link to our Leadership Development page for links to the registration packet or to register online:

<http://bit.ly/mQkpA9>

The Leadership Academy is Underway!

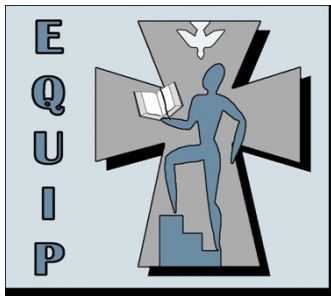
On Saturday, January 14, the first class in the Leadership Academy "met" to learn about the Old Testament in a new way. Students gathered in several Presbyterian church sites, where they were instructed by Paige McRight through a remote video feed.

It's not too late for you to join us in this unique learning environment! Courses are open to all who are interested. Future classes will be held the second Saturday of the month, 9am-3pm, from one of four sites:

1. First Presbyterian, Mt. Dora
2. Grace Covenant Presbyterian, Orlando
3. Port Orange Presbyterian, Port Orange
4. First Presbyterian, Vero Beach

Future classes start February 11 with Old Testament (Job-Malachi), then the New Testament (also in two segments), Interpreting the Bible, Spirituality, Church History, Teaching the Bible, Reformed Theology, Presbyterian Polity, Reformed Worship & Sacraments, and Evangelism & Church Growth.

Classes are taught by elders and ministers of the presbytery, as well as two guest instructors: Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka of Columbia Theological Seminary will lead Teaching the Bible, and the Evangelism & Church Growth class will be taught by Ray Jones, Office of Evangelism Coordinator of the General Assembly.



Note that each class may require reading to be completed ahead of time. After registering, please check the class website <http://cflpresbytery.org/equip/> for the assignment. There will also be a post-class assignment that will enable participants to apply what they have learned within their local church context.

Classes will open on the first day of the month prior to the month of the course meeting. The cost is \$25 per course, due by the day of the class. Make checks payable to Central Florida Presbytery. On the day of class, students are responsible for bringing their own lunch. See the catalog here: <http://bit.ly/rlxgjh> You may register

for as many classes as you like through this link:

<https://secure.jotform.com/form/13143501258>

Central Florida Presbytery developed the Leadership Academy out of a desire from church leaders to have the opportunity for deeper learning experiences in order to be better equipped leaders. Our Directory for Worship reminds us that "in the exercise of their responsibility to provide encouragement, guidance, and resources in worship to member churches, presbyteries should arrange appropriate educational events" (W-1.4009).

Good News from Paige

Dear Friends,

February brings the beginning of Lent—a time of reflection and anticipation. This year, it is an especially personal season as I reflect on 40 years of ordained ministry and anticipate retirement. I have begun the process of purging files and bookshelves and thus looking back through a wonderful collection of resources for Christian education in the broad sense.

I have looked at officer training manuals. I have looked at resources for work with candidates and new pastors, including a collection of things to help people find their gifts and talents and learn to lead in congregations. I have looked at resources I have used for session retreats. Finally, I have looked at books and curricula (including the Hebrew and Greek texts I sometimes turn to and the six Bible translations I often consult) that I have used across the years to help people of all ages grow in their understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life.

My sons' question still rings in my ears as I look at that shelf: "Ma, why do you need so many Bibles? Don't they all say the same thing?" Sure they do, but the nuances of the original languages aren't well captured in any of them, and the comparison reading is what makes me do the research on what the texts say in the original languages.

Maybe the best treasures I have opened are the Covenant Life Curriculum for children published in the 1960s. It was Mary Boney's *God Calls*, copyrighted in my senior year of high school, that first opened my eyes to the truth that all Christians are given talents to use in God's service and that we are all called to use those talents in our work in the world whether that work is ordained or not.

The curricula for elementary children in that series interprets Scripture in practical ways for daily life at a child's level. The question "who is my neighbor" is dealt with in 1965, the year of school integration, in a story about whether to invite boys to shoot hoops on the playground regardless of the color of their skin. I can imagine – I knew – some Sunday school teachers who had a hard time with the situation.

Looking at the curriculum now, I'm reminded that we are still called today to find ways to help God's children—pre-school, elementary and all through life, to think about what it means to live as Christ's followers in a world that is constantly presenting the old questions in new ways.

Blessings on your Lenten journey and on your adventure of living out your vocation as Christ's follower all your days.

Paige

Unity & Reformed Heritage Seminar

The Department of Ecumenical and Agency Relationships of the PC(USA) General Assembly is sponsoring a Unity & Reformed Heritage Seminar April 30—May 6, 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland. This educational trip is designed to broaden understanding on theological, social and global economic issues, such as interfaith dialogue, evangelism, globalization, church unity, justice and peace, ecumenical dialogue, and the Reformed faith in the 21st century, among others.

Participants will engage the staff of the World Council of Churches, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the Conference of European

Churches, Oikocredit and other ecumenical organizations based in Geneva. A one-day visit is scheduled to the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey — in a lovely rural setting outside of Geneva. Also included are a city tour, a visit to the Museum of the Reformation, and one full-day tour to Gruyeres and Lausanne (old city). This is a great educational opportunity, including time for leisure and relaxation.

The registration deadline is February 1. Click this link for the flyer <http://bit.ly/yslWY9> and this link for an application <http://bit.ly/wZstjl> or email Deborah Harrison deborah.harrison@pcusa.org

Mission Opportunities and News from the PC(USA) Website

PC(USA) Special Offerings Calendar

This year, plan ahead for all the PC(USA) Church-wide Special Offerings. Use the Special Offerings Calendar and learn about these four opportunities to make God's love present to those in need. Following is a link to the 2-page color calendar in Adobe PDF format:

<http://bit.ly/wuunvG>

Click Here if You Like Maps!

See Presbyterians at work around the world in this clever map where you can click by region, then by country <http://bit.ly/yOTScX>

PATH Partner Bulletin Inserts

PATH/2Cents Partners Bulletin Inserts are now available on the PATH page of the presbytery website (click here: <http://bit.ly/AtMhSR>) you can find bulletin inserts in .pdf format for all of our partners.

Each insert is a stand-alone piece with one side containing info regarding the partner, and the other side containing general info regarding PATH/2 Cents Per Meal. This month, read about one of these partners, Haiti/CODEP, below:

Haiti Fund Inc., a 501(c)(3) charitable organization established The Comprehensive Development Project (CODEP) in 1989 to cooperate with and assist the people of rural Haiti by initiating, funding, administering and sustaining development programs aimed at increasing self-sufficiency.

Through a covenant relationship between the Episcopal Church of Haiti and the Presbyterian Church (USA), and funded by contributions from churches and individuals, CODEP focuses its efforts in the mountains of the Commune of Leogane on the Southern arm of Haiti and currently has initiatives in the Cormier and Upper Fond Boudin areas.

Activities include working with the predominantly Christian subsistence farmers on soil conservation, agro forestry, potable and agricultural water supplies, improved agriculture practices, sustainable nutrition improvement, micro-economy experiments, adult literacy and educational enhancements. During the school year, new educational techniques are developed, taught and demonstrated to both teachers and students and a dynamic summer school program has been an integral component of the educational curriculum.

Haiti Fund's vision is "of a land of plenty in the mountains of Haiti where the people live in peace and have embraced a plan to restore God's creation. In this place the residents enjoy good health, quality education and economic stability so that they can live together as a thriving community of God's children."

But what we see today is:

- more hungry people
- children dying before age 5
- adult life expectancy 20+ years less than the U.S.
- 2 or 3 people in 10 can read or write
- cities that are over-crowded
- much of the farmland is barren

We know that relief efforts can be quick, but are

rarely self-sustainable, and can lead to more dependence, so we focus on development projects that can help Haitians help themselves.

Working through existing churches, schools and health institutions, CODEP missionaries not only provide local oversight for all of the work, but also assure that the work is paced by residents' interest as expressed by volunteer participation and commitment.

Please pray for:

- Resolution to the political problems plaguing the country of Haiti and the economic instability it perpetuates
- Development of local leaders, many of whom were illiterate just 5 years ago
- The door to remain open yet a while longer to minister in this land

For more information, please visit the Haiti/CODEP website www.Haitifundinc.org.

As mentioned, one side of each of the bulletin inserts includes general information regarding PATH/2 Cents Per Meal. The Haiti Fund/CODEP insert includes these references that provide a Biblical basis for hunger ministry. Use these as devotional tools as you pray for all of our PATH partners.

- Leviticus 19:9-10 On leaving crops in the field for the poor and the sojourner.
- Proverbs 19:17 What you give to the poor is a loan to the Lord.
- Deuteronomy 15:7-8 Do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor.
- Job 38:41 Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young cry to God, and wander about for lack of food? Psalm 41:1-3 God sustains and protects those who give to the poor.
- Psalm 146:5-8 Happy are those who give food to the poor.
- Isaiah 58:5-10 Pour yourselves out for the hungry.
- Amos 5:21-24 Let justice roll down like waters.
- Micah 6:6-8 Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God.
- Matthew 25:31-46 "I was hungry and you fed me."
- Mark 6:30-34 Jesus feeds the multitudes.
- Luke 3:11 If you have two coats, give one to someone who has none.
- Luke 10:25-37 The Good Samaritan
- Luke 14:12-14 Invite the poor to your dinner.
- Luke 16:19-31 The rich man and Lazarus
- James 2:14-26 Show your faith by your good works



February Celebrations

Minister

Rev. Dr. Fernando Jensen.....	2/1/72
Rev. Joseph Ryu.....	2/4/62
Rev. Dr. Hector Rodriguez.....	2/10/79
Rev. Loy Mersheimer.....	2/10/08
Rev. Dr. Timothy Womack.....	2/11/89
Rev. Joe Wendorph.....	2/16/64
Revs. Samuel & Benita Weems.....	2/18/11

First (Eustis).....	1884
First (Wildwood).....	1884
First (Titusville).....	1887
First (Vero Beach).....	1954
Wekiva (Longwood).....	1977
First (Palm Bay).....	1981

Blessings to Rev. Dr. Fernando Jensen on 40 years of ordained ministry and to Rev. Joseph Ryu for 50 years of ordained ministry. Also, blessings to Wekiva PC on their 35th anniversary and to First, Titusville on their 125th! We pray the Holy Spirit strengthens you all as you witness to the work of Jesus Christ in your lives.

Presbyterian Summer Camps

Sure, it's still winter, but it's not too early to begin considering summer camp opportunities for budding Presbyterians! Our friends in the adjacent presbyteries of Tampa Bay and Peace River host campers of all ages at Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2011. Click here <http://bit.ly/yQxidw> for summer camp information and here for a calendar: <http://bit.ly/yMoDg4>.

Our neighbor the Presbytery of St. Augustine hosts summer camps at the Montgomery Presbyterian Center (see info here: <http://bit.ly/zn6Dbw>) Summer camp registration is now open, and here is a calendar: <http://bit.ly/xlWzAs>. Montgomery's camps include offerings for all ages, even a Family Camp!

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Quick News and Notes

- Has your church updated the terms of call for its ordained and installed ministers? Even if those terms are unchanged from last year, you should submit them on this form: <http://bit.ly/x2zRrH> (will open an Excel spreadsheet) or <http://bit.ly/A7b8o9> (will open a .pdf file). Here are helpful instructions for completing the form: <http://bit.ly/xZb1qp>
- Does your church have equipment or materials it no longer needs? Whether you plan to donate or need to sell, you may place a notice on the presbytery website under "Items to Share." Email your information to Ruthie rmerced@cfpresbytery.org And don't forget to bookmark this link! http://cfpresbytery.org/items_share.html
- The Global Mission Subcommittee reminds you that applications for the Hands on Mission Grant 2012 are still being accepted through February 15. Click the link for an application: <http://bit.ly/AgD93i>
- Connect with your presbytery on Facebook and Twitter! Our Facebook page is <http://on.fb.me/xBGJUz> and our Twitter page is <http://bit.ly/xtf1xn>
- The Presbytery Youth have a Facebook page too! Share this link with your youth to connect: <http://on.fb.me/w39AbY>
- Shop for resources at the PC(USA) Church Store and help Central Florida Presbytery get a discount on purchases by using this link: <http://bit.ly/zGFoZ2> Thanks, and happy shopping!
- Click here <http://bit.ly/wN5CjI> for the presbytery calendar which you can view by week, month, or in agenda form. Scroll down to look farther into the year.
- The end of the year reports deadline is February 15, 2012. These are very important for the presbytery and for the office of the General Assembly. Your username and password were mailed to your offices, but please contact Ruthie at the office if you have any questions.