

PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS

May 14, 2024

It was a great delight to gather in-person at Silver Springs Shores for our Presbytery meeting! Thanks go to Lisa Wells and the Silver Springs Shores volunteers for the smooth parking and registration process. Participants were able to roam the Silver Springs Shores campus and witness the many and varied ministries occurring there, including a stop in the thrift store!

As we gathered in joy and fellowship, attention was given to those whose morning was quite tragic. A bus, whose passengers were farmworkers leaving for a day of work harvesting watermelons, was involved in an accident in Marion County near Dunnellon. Eight of the workers were killed in this accident and all were injured. Rev. Jeff Welch of Dunnellon provided prayer seeking comfort and God's care for those involved.

Worship started us off on the right note. Rev. Dr. Clint Cotrell, Pastor at High Spring First Presbyterian Church, delivered the message encouraging unity and connection between God's people. The hymns were sung with great enthusiasm and the Silver Springs Shores church choir, led by Laurie Rangel, reminded us to take God love and "Pass It On." The Lord's Supper was celebrated and our General Assembly commissioners, advisory delegate and committee assistant were commissioned for their upcoming work. Plus, our offering taken both in-person and online will go toward assisting the food bank at Silver Springs Shores.

Moderator Steve Crowley guided the Presbytery through the agenda. Highlights included:

- Introductions of Rev. Rusty Benton, pastor at Community PC, and PNC member Courtney Simmons. Ordination anniversaries of 35, 30, 25, 20, 15 and 5 years were celebrated.
- The good news of a solid financial audit for the year 2023.
- Greetings from our partners-in-ministry, Valerie Young as Executive and Stated Clerk for the Synod of South Atlantic and Clark Simmons from the Board of Pension.
- Upcoming plans for another round of youth retention grants for our churches.
- Filling vacancies on the Call Commission by the Volunteer Management Team.
- Reports from our Lead Presbyter, Presbytery Disaster Commission and our Generosity Team.
- Upcoming plans by the Mission and Leadership Development Team for a pastor retreat and Back Together Again.....Again!
- And the presentation of a gift of the Moderator's Cross to Rev. Dr. Susan Rose for her service!

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm and a most delightful lunch was served, which complimented the tasty goodies provided at registration. Many pleasant conversations were held around the tables filled with joy and laughter. Please plan to participate in the next meeting of Presbytery on October 1, 2024 at Palatka First Presbyterian Church.