

SHORELINE

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From Our Pastor 50 Yrs.

Celebrate DCSPC's Anniversary

O Jesus, Thou didst call us, to understand our past, To honor those who visioned a church to ever last; Those saints remain in memory, and kindle us with fire To grow in faith and wisdom, may us your grace inspire.

How will we celebrate our 50th anniversary? 2017 is the year Deer Creek Shores passes another milestone in ministry. Recognition, memorials, praise and celebration are certainly in order!

Elder Nancy Tims has been here for most of the 50 years- of course she was very, very young for many of them. She has offered to be the point of contact for your ideas as your Session will be making plans in the coming weeks.

So think about it. Talk it up. Who have you kept in contact with that was part of the 50 year journey? How can we best reach out to former members and friends of the church? What should a celebration include? Let Nancy T. know your ideas- soon!

A number of the Puritans who migrated to America, beginning with the voyage of the Mayflower in 1620, were Presbyterians. So, there are Presbyterian congregations in the USA who have celebrated a 50th many times. Our particular congregation would never have been established if it weren't for countless brothers and sisters who spread the faith to those who settled in Forsyth County and established DCSPC.

Some churches elect to have a special Sunday worship service, followed by a reception. In the South "dinner on the grounds" is a tradition that helps recognize that those before us did not have the buildings we enjoy. Of course, covered dish is certainly a proven part of many celebrations.

This month I will be meeting with Pastors in Cuba whose churches have a very different story to tell about the last 50 years. PCUSA is working with ministry teams, supporting a Cuban seminary, and reaching out to churches in Cuba.

Since Fidel Castro took over in 1959, congregations there have struggled in ways I can only imagine. But guess what? God is greater than any political struggle. The Holy Spirit cannot be stopped. The Gospel is written on heart after heart as Grace of Jesus Christ is poured out on the oppressed.

I plan to share my experiences in Cuba with you on Sunday February 12th. See you in church!

Yours in Christ,

Rev John Martin

O Jesus, guide our footsteps, so we may follow Thee, To be both friend and servant in Christian ministry; Help each of us, as branches that grow upon your vine, Bring justice, love and healing and peace on earth sublime.

