



## Presbytery of San Gabriel

# MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

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For the week of Tuesday, January 8, 2018

### IN THIS ISSUE

[A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA](#)

[GRACE FOR THE END OF 2017 - Shared Mission Giving](#)

[HOMELESS COUNT 2018](#)

[WINTERFEST - REGISTER NOW](#)

[2018 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS](#)

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#)

### PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Occidental Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, January 15, 2018.

### ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday, January 7 - Commission on Ministry 5:00 at Trinity, Pasadena

Tuesday, January 8 - Education Committee 2:00 at the Presbytery Center, Temple City

### A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

"Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."  
*Matthew 2:2*

#### Reflection

This last Saturday was Epiphany. This holiday celebrates the revelation of God to us in the birth of Jesus Christ. This is dramatically represented with the arrival of foreign, Gentile leaders who searched for the new king of the Jews, following a star. The Western tradition is that the trip took twelve days, arriving on January 6<sup>th</sup> according to our calendar.

On Sunday I was in a church where the nativity scene was fully displayed, with the

addition of the three kings. As I considered the search of the wise men, I noticed that the little baby Jesus in the scene was so small that I could not see him. In fact, someone had placed an angel figure (which was not part of the original set) behind and between the Mary and Joseph figures, such that I imagined how some might have confused the angel for the object of their search.

I'm always awed that God came to be one of us, and chose to come as the baby of a poor, displaced young woman in a small outpost of a world empire, who got pregnant under questionable circumstances. Not only does this represent God's love for the poor and the powerless, but it also resulted in obscuring the divine nature of Jesus for most of the world. Even believers in God read the Hebrew Scriptures and imagined that when the Messiah comes, he will come as a mighty king who will overthrow the oppressor. It would be easy to miss the Messiah, or get distracted by one who appears more majestic, just as I had a hard time finding the Christ figure in the nativity set, even when I was looking for him.

As we consider God's appearance to us, do we sit back and wait for God to come to us, looking the way we want God to look, or do we search out God's face even when we must leave our comfort zones? And even if we are actively seeking, do we sometimes miss Christ in our presence, because Christ is in the least of us, in the unexpected person, in an undesirable place?

During this Epiphany time, especially now as displaced people continue to be turned away from safety and security, may we be willing to open our eyes, our hearts, our minds that we may discern God's star for us, leading us forward as we actively search for Christ's presence in our lives. May we see Christ in our neighbor, in our church, in ourselves, but also in places of pain and poverty. And may we, too, pay him homage, wherever we find him.

Here are a few ways you might encounter Christ in a more meaningful way:

- Pray. You may have heard that Rev. Art French died just last night. Art suffered a serious fall at Monte Vista Grove on Thursday, hitting his head and also breaking some bones. Please pray for Art's family and we'll let you know when a service is planned. We can also pray thanksgiving for the life of Hazel Harken, especially at the service celebrating her life at Westminster Gardens, 3:30 p.m. January 27. (See below)
- Learn. I expect you know that "disciple" comes from a word for "student." We Presbyterians prioritize training for all of God's people, so I invite everyone to WinterFest. It's not only for elders and deacons; you don't even need to be a church member to attend WinterFest, which is coming up in just a couple of weeks. See below for registration information, or better yet go to our new [sangabpres.org](http://sangabpres.org) website and you can register on-line! Find WinterFest under "News and Events"-and look around the new website. (Note: due to my delays, the contents of the site need updating, so please be patient-but you'll get the idea.)
- Follow Christ's mission. As Jesus was born temporarily homeless, we have an opportunity to act in a meaningful way for the homeless in our community. See below for information on the homeless count-an annual census of those who are unsheltered during these colder winter nights. The count is used to secure resources to aid them in the coming year. The count takes place at night and early morning January 23-25 depending on the area; in Pasadena the count is scheduled for 8-10 pm January 23, and 6-8 am January 24. See below for details and to sign up.

May we spend our days witnessing to Christ's presence in our lives, and in the world. As we live in growing and constant awareness of this blessing, may we too be a blessing for others, and point to Christ for all to see.

Thanks for being on the journey together,  
Wendy

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## **CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

Elder Hazel Harken, Commissioned Christian Educator for San Gabriel Presbytery, passed away on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Hazel was the only person commissioned for education in this presbytery, and among other things coordinated a regular meeting of preschool directors for the presbytery. Elder Harken, a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church Monrovia, she became a member-at-large of the presbytery when Monrovia left the PC(USA).

A service celebrating her life and giving thanks to God for her presence and leadership among us. The service will be at Packard Hall at Westminster Gardena, 1420 Santo Domingo Avenue, Duarte, at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 27.

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## **GRACE FOR THE END OF 2017**

There's still time to complete your shared mission giving for 2017! The Presbytery office will receive 2017 contributions to the broader mission of the church until January 16, 2018. The per-person apportionment will continue at \$68/member. Call the Presbytery office if you have any questions 626 614-5964.

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## **Homeless Count 2018: Getting Resources for the Homeless**

Los Angeles has more chronically homeless, homeless veterans, and homeless young people than any other city in the country. Seventy-five percent of all homeless people in Los Angeles are living on the streets, in their cars, or in other makeshift situations, the second-highest rate of in the country. While homelessness is a big problem, we don't have to accept it as an unsolvable problem.

The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count and the Pasadena Homeless Count are each an on-the-ground census of our homeless neighbors in need of support. These Homeless Counts occurs every year and the data collected is essential for advocating for and allocating resources where they will serve the greatest needs.

### **The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count: January 23-25, 2018**

There are various ways to volunteer. Training and all equipment and materials needed are provided. The time commitment on the night of the Count is usually 3-5 hours. Donations of refreshments and other in-kind donations at deployment sites are also

being sought.

For information on the Greater L.A. Homeless Count and to sign up to volunteer visit: [www.lahsa.org](http://www.lahsa.org) and [www.theycountwillyou.org](http://www.theycountwillyou.org)

To see results from 2017 Los Angeles Homeless Count for the San Gabriel Valley click on this link: [San Gabriel Valley homelessness fact sheet](#)

## Pasadena Homeless Count: January 23 & 24, 2018

Volunteers are sent in teams of 2-3 to an assigned zone on the night of January 23 (8:00-10:00 p.m.) and the morning of January 24 (6:00-8:00 a.m.). The same teams go out both times. Volunteers should be 18+ and must attend an orientation on Jan. 17 or 18 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.).

For information on the Pasadena Homeless Count and to sign up to volunteer visit: <https://pasadenapartnership.org/volunteer-homeless-count/>

# WinterFest

**Register now for Winterfest 2018!**

[tinyurl.com/sgpwinterfest](http://tinyurl.com/sgpwinterfest)

January 20, 9am-1pm

Featured speaker Jake Mulder of the Fuller Youth Institute will speak on Growing Young-strategies to help your church grow spiritually, emotionally missionally, and numerically by engaging 15 to 29 yr olds. Don't miss many workshops on a variety of topics from officer training to community outreach to storytelling. Click [HERE](#) to download the flyer and visit [www.tinyurl.com/sgpwinterfest](http://www.tinyurl.com/sgpwinterfest) to register now.



## **2018 Presbytery Meetings**

January 20, 2018 @ the Presbytery Center, 9723 Garibaldi Avenue, Temple City  
Winterfest begins at 9 am, stated Presbytery meeting begins at 1 pm  
April 21, 2018 @ Claremont Presbyterian Church  
June 2, 2018 - Including Day of Service @ Westminster Gardens, Duarte  
September 15, 2018 @ Calvary Presbyterian Church, South Pasadena  
November 10, 2018 @ First Thai Presbyterian Church, Covina

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## **2018 Presbytery Minimums**

Pastor's Minimum Salary: \$53,745  
Travel/Professional Expense Reimbursement: \$2,550  
Study Leave: \$950

## **2018 Mileage Reimbursement Rates:**

Ministry .545 cents per mile	Charitable 14 cents per mile
Business .545 cents per mile	

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# WHAT CHAPTER OF LIFE ARE YOU IN?

Learn about a new ministry with Dr. Leslie Braksick . . .



**Your Next Season:  
Advice for Those in Transition  
Saturday, January 20  
10:00 -12:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

Learn about a ministry for those leaving one chapter of life, and entering the next. Meet Dr. Leslie Braksick, co-author of *Your Next Season*, a book that offers candid, unvarnished, authentic advice from hundreds who understand that the transition of “seasons” is one of the most fragile phases of adult life. Take comfort in this extraordinary book, which brings readers companionship, empathy, encouragement, and sage advice – plus valuable tools to create a purposeful “next season” of their own. Remember, regardless of what you do next, you are taking along the very best part of your career...YOU!



San Marino Community Church  
Sunday Worship 9:00 am & 10:30 am  
1750 Virginia Road • San Marino, CA 91108  
(626) 282-4181 • www.smccpby.com • smcc@smccpby.com

[Click Here to download a copy of the flyer](#)

# MALAWI: TRANSFORMATIONAL JOURNEY

July 16-Aug 2, 2018

San Marino Community Church

Come to Our Interest Meeting on Sunday, January 7 at 10:30 am in the Church Lounge

## Are you being called to join the "Go" Team?

You would actively engage in an unforgettable cross-cultural experience in the "Warm Heart of Africa."

### What would you do in Malawi?

- Visit Ministry of Hope to:
  - Conduct "pray and play" sessions at orphan care centers
  - Hold babies at the Crisis Nursery
  - Help with a Mobile Medical Clinic in a rural village
  - Meet with Economic Empowerment "trust groups"
  - Ministry of Hope preschooler
- Visit schools and meet with students
- Worship at local churches
- Visit hospitals
- Tour villages to see shallow wells projects
- Spend an afternoon at Lake Malawi
- Travel to Liwonde National Game Park
  - Experience a land safari & a river safari



### How would you prepare for the trip?

- Envision and design projects to implement in Malawi
- Participate in a pre-trip orientation and learning program
- Share information, plans, and opportunities for involvement with our
- Liwonde Safari Camp

### Estimated cost of trip is approximately \$3,700.

This will cover round-trip airfare, lodging, food, transportation, a one-night stay at a wilderness resort with two three-hour guided safaris, and training materials. Not covered in the fee are required immunizations, alcoholic beverages and personal purchases.

*"The Malawi trip is one that will stay vividly in my memory all my life".  
--Former Malawi GO Team member.*

**San Marino Community Church has sent short-term mission teams to Malawi in 1994, 2002, 2008, 2011, and 2015.**

## Quick Links

[www.sangabpres.org](http://www.sangabpres.org)

[www.synod.org](http://www.synod.org)

[www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

[www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Open Position - Director of Outreach

Claremont Presbyterian Church is seeking a Director of Outreach. This is a full time position.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree and three years' experience working in a church, nonprofit, or similar organization. Some post-graduate work preferred. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

To apply: Submit resume, cover letter, and three current references in pdf format to [claremontpresapnc@gmail.com](mailto:claremontpresapnc@gmail.com). Applications will be received until the position is filled.

Click [HERE](#) for a complete job description.

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## ***ITEMS OF INTEREST***

### **APCE Annual Event**

#### **Deep & Wide - Boundless Hospitality**

January 31 - February 3, 2018

The Galt House, Louisville, KY

Visit [www.apcenet.org](http://www.apcenet.org) for more information

### **2018 Mosaic of Peace - A Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference in Israel/Palestine.**

April 29 - May 12, 2018

Apply online at [presbyterianmission.org/mosaic](http://presbyterianmission.org/mosaic) through November 15, 2017

For more information visit [presbyterianmission.org/mosaic](http://presbyterianmission.org/mosaic) or call 800-728-7228 x5805