



## Presbytery of San Gabriel

# MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

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Monday, February 5, 2018

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### PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember New Hope Presbyterian Church of Pasadena in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, February 11, 2018.

### ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

**Monday, February 5** - Commission on Ministry 5:00 at Trinity, Pasadena

**Tuesday, February 6** - Commission on Preparation for Ministry 6:00 at San Marino

Executive Presbyter, Wendy Tajima will be out of the office Wednesday, February 14 through Friday, February 16.

### Ash Wednesday 2018 - Volunteer Opportunity

As you might imagine, Ash Wednesday is a very busy day at LAC+USC Hospital!

Christians around the world observe Ash Wednesday by confronting their mortality and receiving an ash cross that reaffirms their repentance from sin and their belief in the



Gospel. Because of their illness or a 12 hour shift, many Christians are bound to the hospital grounds and unable to receive this blessing. Last year, the chaplains and community volunteers shared this blessing with over 1400 people at LAC+USC!

—This Is Where You Come In —

If you are interested in helping us out, we would love it! Basically the ashes are offered all day long to patients, their families and hospital staff, but the peak demand is in the morning, between 9-noon. Both clergy and laity welcome to lend a hand. I can't think of a better way to celebrate love this Valentine's Day!

If you are interested to joining us from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m, or if you have questions, please email me at [Elizabeth.GibbsZehnder@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth.GibbsZehnder@gmail.com).

## A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

Those who try to make their life secure will lose it, but those who lose their life will keep it.

*Luke 17:33*

### Reflection

This last weekend I attended milestone events in the life of two different churches. On Saturday, Union Church of Los Angeles celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a luncheon for 200 people. And on Sunday, a church I have befriended, Altadena Community Church, held a service of confirmation for a child of the church whose spirit offers more joy and energy in the worship service than her Down's Syndrome allows her to offer through words.

When I was growing up, my uncle Don Toriumi was pastor of Pasadena Union Church (now First Presbyterian Church of Altadena). His brother Howard was pastor of what our family called LA Union. So I have always considered the churches to be sister churches. When I was Stated Clerk/Associate General Presbyter for Presbytery of the Pacific, I worked with LA Union, serving as Moderator of Session and working with them during a pivotal time in their ministry, as they called new English-speaking and Japanese-speaking pastors and incorporated "the Bridge" ministry into Union Church. The Bridge is a new-generation urban ministry that was started by Bel Air Presbyterian Church, upon the invitation of Rev. Mas Hibino, who was Union's interim pastor for several years.

The Bridge brings together young urban professionals of all races, wealthy Bel Air friends, Skid Row residents, Japanese-American Union members of all ages, and others (on Saturday I met a retired Chinese-South African couple who live in Anaheim who come to the Bridge). The diversity of the luncheon attendees reflected the impact of Union's new openness, which is a striking contrast from Union's earlier focus on Japanese-only ministry.

This change has not been easy, even though it probably saved the church from dissolution. When Mas reached out to Bel Air, the average age of the membership was in the 70s, and the number of members dwindled. There was tension between

the Japanese-speaking and English-speaking language ministries. And the strong leadership of the church in the Little Tokyo community (Toriumi Plaza is a new open space, named in honor of their pastor) was almost gone.

The Bridge is now the largest of the three worship services, and the only one with children. As Union Church enters their second century of ministry, there is a vibrancy to their outlook, while they continue to deal with resistance from a few who thought they could control who comes into the church.

On Sunday morning I went to Altadena Community, a small church of about 70 members. As it turned out, there were three special events at the church that day—the confirmation of Eden, Boy Scouts Sunday which allowed about 30 young men see a church celebrate the life of this young person with severe disabilities, and a church member gave his faith story during adult education. The man who shared his faith story spoke of his battle with alcoholism, occasional homelessness, divorce, and the many ways the members of this church loved him through it all, including giving him a place to stay. I only knew this man to be a very friendly person who manages the sound board during worship and is always ready to help out at multiple events, so it was a surprise and an inspiration to hear the ways this church truly saved his life. Over the course of the day my heart was full as this little church revealed a glimpse of God's kingdom, where grace extends to all, people of all ages, races, and persuasions are loved, and faith is put into very direct action.

As I prayed my thanks for the vibrancy and faithfulness displayed by these two churches, it occurred to me that in recent years, both churches seriously wondered whether they would survive. Both churches saw their long-time leadership group dwindle, either by age or with members moving out of the area, and there were no similar new leaders stepping forward to take their place. Even if new, younger members moved into leadership, they didn't seem to last long, due to career/life volatility or stumbles over entrenched road blocks in the church's ministry.

Perhaps they had to reach that point, when their very survival was at risk, before the churches opened up to God's unpredictable will. Our churches, like our selves, like the PC(USA) as a denomination, have to be willing to let go of our own sense of control over our life in order for us to allow God to work in and through us. As Jesus was quoted multiple times in all four gospels, "Those who try to make their life secure will lose it, but those who lose their life will keep it."

Our PC(USA) Book of Order now begins with the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, which has become the favorite section for many of us, because it makes more clear the basic ideals that guide our governance—ideals so deeply held that in the past we failed to articulate them to those new to the Presbyterian church. One of the statements in this section is relatively new, but is quoted often by national church leaders:

The Church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life. (F-1.0301)

Truly, in order for our churches to thrive in the future, we have to be willing to lose our life for the sake of the gospel, in sure trust that our real life is in the eternal love of our Lord. May we all be a glimpse into God's kingdom, in our love, in our welcome, in our grace, in our generous spirit, in our willingness to risk our all for Christ's ministry. And may we feel the smile of God upon us as we do.

In faith,

## Caring for Creation with Biodegradable Supplies

The Justice, Peacemaking, and Mission Committee presented two focus areas for 2018 at our Nov. 2017 presbytery meeting. One of these 2018 focus areas for the presbytery is Environmental Stewardship. Acting on this focus the JPM Committee decided to provide biodegradable and compostable plates, cups, napkins, and utensils for 2018 presbytery meetings. The members of JPM are committed to making a concerted effort to reduce the trash that sits in landfills for years and hopes that all our churches will do the same at congregational events.



JPM suggests that your churches either use reusable/washable items, or biodegradable/compostable items, which are easily found in marketplaces today. We were pleased to hear from our November survey that some of you are already using real dishes and flatware and washing them. If you want to use biodegradable/compostable utensils, you can buy them through online marketplaces such as Amazon and local markets such as Smart & Final (at Smart & Final, look for brands like Sun Harvest plates or Greenware cups). If your church has a good supplier for such items, please let us know so we can pass on the information.

If you need any ideas for how to be better environmental stewards don't hesitate to ask members of the JPM Committee:

Matt Colwell, Chair  
Walter Contreras  
Rob Crowell  
Carolyn Harris  
Young Lee Hertig  
Angelica Michail  
Jen Strickland  
Dean Thompson  
Wendy Gist (gist.wendy@gmail.com), Staff

## Hurricane Relief and Rebuilding in Puerto Rico - Summer 2018

Would you like to help with the relief effort in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria? International Mission Partnerships and Cross-cultural Training (IMPACT) is taking applications for a trip this summer. IMPACT is a local faith-based organization that trains and sends



out mission groups each year to places where they have local contacts. IMPACT will be partnering with All Hands and Hearts or World Renew this summer to put together a clean-up and recovery trip to Puerto Rico. The cross-cultural training dates are June 25-28 and it takes place in Southern CA. Directly after training the group will travel to Puerto Rico and is scheduled to return on July 10. Applications are being accepted now and are due Feb. 10, so don't delay. For more information about IMPACT and to apply go to: <https://www.impact-theglobe.org/>



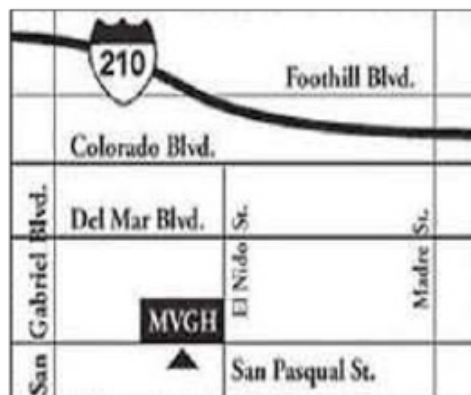
Third Annual  
**St. David's Day Celebration**  
at Monte Vista Grove Homes  
in Pasadena

Come Learn about Wales  
as we sing to the Glory of God  
from ***Glory to God*** (the new Presbyterian hymnal)  
following the Welsh tradition of a ***Gymanfa Ganu***

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018**  
at 2 p.m. in Marwick Place

**Special Music by Côr Cymraeg De California**  
(Welsh Choir of Southern California)

A **Tê Bach** (of Welsh and British goodies) will follow



**Directions to Monte Vista Grove Homes  
at 2889 San Pasqual Street,  
Pasadena, California 91107**

Park on San Pasqual Street or El Nido Street  
or on the Campus  
and look for signs for the  
*St. David's Day Celebration*

For more information please contact  
Huw Christopher (850) 209-6931  
or [huwchristopher@gmail.com](mailto:huwchristopher@gmail.com)

[St. Davids Day](#)

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

## 2018 Presbyery Minimums

Pastor's Miminum 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

### 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

#### **PRAISE BAND WORSHIP LEADER - SUNDAY MORNING**

Calvary Presbyterian Church in Riverside, CA, is looking for a talented singer/musician and worship leader for our Sunday 8:45 a.m. Contemporary worship service, *The Gathering*. Coordinating with the pastors, Worship Leader selects all songs for this service to compliment the scripture texts.

Also directs Praise Band including two vocalists and one pianist/vocalist; leads monthly 2-hr. practice; and 30-minute warm-up on Sunday morning before worship. Ideally, Worship Leader would have 3+ years of experience leading praise worship and band, play guitar or other instrument, and have experience working with and encouraging other musicians to create spirit-led, inspired praise worship. We are a vibrant downtown church with 30-40 people in this service.

Paid position. Send details to Debbie Neal at [church@calvarypresch.com](mailto:church@calvarypresch.com)

#### **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***

### **Transitions. . .Making Marriage Work**

#### **A Four-Week Enrichment Course with Lisa & John Massaro**

Tuesdays, February 6 - 27 6:30-8:00 pm

San Marino Community Church

The cost for this 4-week program is \$50 per couple, which covers a copy of Dr. Gottman's Book, *Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*, plus two workbooks.

Please visit <https://smcc.breezechms.com/form/Marriage>

to register. **Deadline to register is January 28.**

### **St. David's Day Celebration**

Saturday, February 24 2:00 pm

Marwick Place - Monte Vista Grove Homes

Come Learn about Wales

as we sing to the Glory of God

from *Glory to God (the new Presbyterian hymnal)*

following the Welsh tradition of a *Gymanfa Ganu*

### **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