



## Presbytery of San Gabriel

# MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

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Monday, April 30, 2018

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### PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember First Presbyterian Church of Altadena in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, May 6, 2018.

### ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

**Tuesday, May 1** - Commission on Preparation for Ministry 5:30 at San Marino Community

**Saturday, May 5** - Review of Records 10:00 at Shepherd of the Valley, Hacienda Heights

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

But Naboth said to Ahab, "The Lord forbid that I should give you my ancestral inheritance."

*1 Kings 21:3*

## Reflection

I don't know if many of you know the story of Naboth's vineyard (1 Kings 21); I can't remember ever hearing a sermon on it in any Presbyterian church. It is the scriptural basis for Queen Liliuokalani's appeal to the American people to restore the Kingdom of Hawaii. (Did you know that President Grover Cleveland actually agreed that the US overthrow of the Queen was an unlawful military invasion, and unsuccessfully requested to Congress that her sovereignty be reinstated?)

For myself, Naboth's vineyard became the symbol of my seminary experience. One of our great Old Testament professors, Marvin Chaney, an expert in Biblical economic justice, introduced to us the term "latifundialization." The term was used to describe the way large landholders could use their power to overtake the lands of neighboring small local farmers. Nowadays it might be a precursor to corporate agribusiness, but when Prof. Chaney first described it, I said "Oh, Starbucks." That was 20 years ago, when Starbucks was entering new markets by boldly moving right next to a local coffee house, using their marketing power to push the local coffee house out of business. They even eclipsed their own inspiration, Peet's, whom I love.

Thus, I never liked Starbucks. So it would seem simple for me to avoid Starbucks after that distressing incident when two men were arrested upon the complaint of the Starbucks manager, even after the person they were waiting for appeared and protested the arrest. I didn't have a hard time boycotting Carl's Jr. for their sexist policies, because honestly I would get an upset stomach whenever I ate their hamburgers anyway. And since I don't go to Starbucks that much (can't justify paying that much for coffee on a regular basis), I made a casual commitment to avoid them.

It was surprising and not a little disappointing to realize that several times a day, I had to stop myself from thinking of Starbucks for something-for a quick coffee or cold drink, to hang out at the airport, even to go to the bathroom when on the road (the reason, of course, for the men's arrest). Even though I didn't go there often, even though I don't even like them, and now even though I have good reason to protest them, their pervasive presence has enabled them to infiltrate multiple aspects of my life.

This struck me as a new example of the challenges we Christians face to live in the world, but not of the world. When we attempt to live as citizens of God's kingdom, we must unlearn the rules of the worldly kingdom that have surrounded and guided most of us since birth. How am I supposed to confront hatred with love, injustice with mercy, fear with the courage of faith, and self-interest with self-giving trust in God's providence if I can't even let go of this also-ran coffee company that I have settled for, due to its easy presence in the world around me?

What's worse, sometimes our worldly prosperity as a church makes me wonder if I am more Ahab than Naboth. In order to complete the sale of the South Hills property, we have had to escalate our efforts to close down the community garden that has thrived there for 25 years. Now part of me can become irritated that some individuals have dared to demand to stay after the church has allowed them to work this land for decades without any fee but to pay for the water. But thanks to our new president Maria Cacarnakis, who can speak not only in their language but also with grace and respect, we have been able to speak with more of the gardeners in person, who have responded with the same grace and respect, but also showed how they had been misinformed. Now that we had to post a legal sign demanding that they leave, most of the gardeners we have met seem to understand that the garden must close. And we

encouraged some of the gardeners to advocate for a new garden at Cal Poly Pomona, as has already been discussed by Congresswoman Norma Torres. (If you live in her district, please also give the office a call-ask for Mario-and lend your support for the Cal Poly Community Garden. Their phone number is (909) 481-6474.)

As Dave Tomlinson said, when we talk with the gardeners and see their very productive plots, we are saddened that the garden must end. Our prayer is that the new land at Cal Poly, which is larger, permanent, and accompanied by a healthy eating grant from a large healthcare company, will come to fruition soon.

This weekend has been a kaleidoscope of experiences in my life in the Presbyterian church. I was blessed to be able to serve communion (wearing a robe from Tanzania) at my final meeting with the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board. Bong Bringas and I concluded our work on the PMA Executive Director Search Committee-and I am thrilled with the result. I can't reveal the name of the candidate yet, but in any case I would ask your prayers for the people serving the national church, especially with the too-public wrangling over the future of the PMA as we head towards General Assembly in two months. Coming home at midnight on Saturday, I spent Sunday at the Community Garden with Maria and Dave, then went to a choir rehearsal, then witnessed a major step forward for Pasadena Presbyterian Church. PPC has been working hard to discern as a full church how they envision their future, in anticipation of beginning a pastoral search this year. The work at PPC has been complex, challenging, and multifaceted, but I can see the emerging clarity and hope for their next phase of ministry.

One small glimpse of the future came as this multiracial community of faith could hear and feel the personal prayers of joy and hope from their Korean brothers when they spoke of the possibility of reunification. We all join in prayers for a reunified Korea, and the restoration of peace on their peninsula.

I know most of you are fully invested in the ministry of your local church, as you should be. But know that you are part of a much, much larger family of God-the Presbyterian branch, the North American clan, our current global relatives, and the eternal cloud of witnesses, followers of Jesus, fellow citizens of the kin-dom of Heaven. Thanks be to God!

Your sister in Christ,  
Wendy

## **2018 REVIEW OF RECORDS**

Saturday, May 5 10:00 am at Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church, Hacienda Heights

Saturday, October 13, 2018 at New Hope Presbyterian Church, Pasadena

## **Register Now for the POAMN**

# Conference, June 5-8, 2018 at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center!

Download the full [conference brochure](#), complete and return the registration pages.

Or complete electronically [here](#).

## *SAVORING THE JOURNEY*

"So that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

Acts 3:20

### 2018 Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN) Conference

## June 5-8, 2018

Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center, Zephyr Cove, Nevada

### Meet us in St. Louis Meet us at Stewardship Kaleidoscope September 24-26, 2018

Looking for ways to transform how your church or judicatory views stewardship? This year's Stewardship Kaleidoscope conference will help you think about generosity in a whole new way! Stewardship Kaleidoscope is an annual event offering keynote speakers and workshops to renew your mind, and worship experiences to renew your spirit. There will also be plenty of time for incredible networking opportunities with others passionate about generosity and giving. Since you've attended a previous Stewardship Kaleidoscope event, we thought you'd want to be among the first to know about this year's transformative event. [SEE MORE](#) and [REGISTER HERE](#)

## 2018 Presbytery Meetings

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 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

## 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

### Church Administrator

Pasadena Presbyterian Church, 585 East Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena is seeking an individual to be responsible for efficiently administering the office operations in order to provide a welcoming and well run church, for the church members, staff and visitors. The current office operations staff includes a full-time facilities director, a full-time bookkeeper, a full-time administrative assistant and a part-time administrative assistant. This position will assist the Personnel Committee as the primary resource person for human resources matters. He/she will also work closely with the bookkeeper to ensure that financial statements are accurate and timely.

Qualifications include:

- 5+ years of supervisory experience including experience in the area of Accounting and Human Resources
- Experience working in a non-profit organization, preferably a church
- Strong working knowledge of office computer systems: Outlook, Excel, Word, PowerPoint, church accounting software, database software and

willingness to learn new systems.

Compensation: \$65,000 - \$75,000 based on experience and ability with medical coverage included.

To apply: Submit resume, and cover letter pdf format to the attention of the Personnel Committee at [ppchr@ppc.net](mailto:ppchr@ppc.net). Please go to our website: [ppc.net](http://ppc.net) for a detailed job description. Applications will be received until the position is filled.

### **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**

### **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

### **Save the Date!**

#### **National Day of Prayer Event**

Thursday, May 3, 2018, 7:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church, Altadena

Please join us for a National Day of Prayer Event on Thursday, May 3, 2018, 7:00-8:15 pm, at First Presbyterian Church, Altadena, 2775 Lincoln Avenue, Altadena, CA, 91001. This annual observance is open to people of all faiths in the community.

Every year, local, state, and federal observances are held from sunrise in Maine to sunset in Hawaii, uniting Americans from all socio-economic, political and ethnic backgrounds in prayer for our Nation. It is estimated that over two million people attended more than 30,000 observances last year. This year's theme is "Unity," which is based on Ephesians 4:3 "Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." With division, strife, discord, racial tension, mass shootings, and a turning away from God at an all-time high, life can seem despairing and overwhelming. But, there is something we can do! We can pray for our Nation.

No matter what side of the aisle we're on, let's come together to pray for God's help for our Nation. The theme "Unity" couldn't be more relevant for such a time as this.

The NDP Task Force states: "Our hope is that individuals, churches, and spiritual leaders in America, will humble ourselves and unify in prevailing prayer for the next great move of God in America. We can come together in clear agreement that this is our greatest need. We can become a visible union, standing together in prayer. We can pray more than ever before, and practice extraordinary prayer for the next great move of God in America that will catapult the message of the Gospel nationally and internationally." For questions and/or to RSVP, contact Becky Roberts (805) 823-5452 or [bjrobert70@gmail.com](mailto:bjrobert70@gmail.com).

### **PRESBYTERIAN OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES SAVORING THE JOURNEY CONFERENCE**

"So that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:20a

JUNE 5-8, 2018

ZEPHYR POINT PRESBYTERIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

660 HWY 50, ZEPHYR COVE, NV 89448

Click [HERE](#) to download the conference flyer

### **Save the Date - La Casa's Annual Fundraising Dinner**

Thursday, October 11, 2018 6 P.M.

LA/San Gabriel Hilton



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