



Presbytery of San Gabriel

MONDAY MORNING UPDATE

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Monday, August 27, 2018

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PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Puente de Esperanza Presbyterian Church of La Puente in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, September 2, 2018.

ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

The Presbytery Office will be closed on Monday, September 3rd in observance of Labor Day

Twila French will be out of the office Wednesday, August 29 - Monday September 3

A REFLECTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. - *Ephesians 4:1-3*

August 27, 2018: Fair Winds and Following Seas

First, the good news-The South Hills property has been transferred to the new owners,

after an incredible amount of work by former South Hills elder Don Sevesind, including days of painstaking work during the recent heat wave as Don and his crew had to individually take apart the dozens and dozens of individual garden plots, each bordered in a different way. There are still some tasks that have to be dealt with, but my hope is that we can look back not on the recent troubles but instead, we give thanks for the 60 years of South Hills' ministry, and their generous offer to their neighbors of garden use for over 25 years. And now that the sale has been finalized, we can partner with the National Black Presbyterian Caucus and others to seek a new worshiping community that can proclaim the Good News through the gifts of the African-American church tradition, in honor of South Hills.

But I wanted to share a few events that caught my attention this weekend. We are starting to look forward to the Presbytery meeting this September 15 at Calvary Presbyterian Church in South Pasadena. This meeting has been unusual in a good way, because we have many pastors who are seeking to come into the presbytery, by ordination or transfer. We had long planned to have a couple of guest speakers as well. Elizabeth Gibbs-Zehnder will update us on her work as the only Protestant Chaplain at LAC+USC Medical Center, a joint ministry of Los Ranchos, Pacific, San Fernando, and San Gabriel presbyteries and the Synod. We also have been planning to hear from Lt. Daniel Menza who wants to talk about opportunities for Navy chaplains. He may need to reschedule to November, but in any case please find a flyer about this [HERE](#) and share with others who might be interested.

Through some various ministry experiences, I have gained great appreciation for military chaplaincy. If you serve in Hawai`i, it's likely you will have military families in your church. And from them, I came to appreciate especially the excellent leadership development training the military offers their people. And what little I have always known about the military was how it is a path for advancement for those who have been marginalized in civilian society, so this training and scholarship assistance is a key part of the opportunity the military gives to those who are willing to take the risk. Now that the military is voluntary, many of the recruits are those who have this need, either from lack of education, poverty, personal trials, racism, or immigration status.

I know this because the Japanese-American community remembers the 442nd Regiment, the most decorated unit in the history of the US Army, made up of Japanese-Americans who came to serve either from Hawai`i, or from the internment camps that imprisoned 120,000 Japanese and Japanese-Americans during World War II. The motivation for these young men was to prove their loyalty to the United States, even if the United States did not honor their citizenship (2/3 of all the incarcerated were born in the United States).

The benefits offered to veterans, especially the education support, was utilized by the Japanese-American vets to overcome the racism they faced back home. In Hawai`i, these vets took over leadership of the territory. And I have heard from individuals who have credited the military not only with training, but also discipline and a sense of purpose that they needed in their wild youth.

I am also aware that many immigrants have gained favorable citizenship status by serving in the military. In fact, of the six military chaplains I worked with in Pacific Presbytery, four of them were immigrants and became citizens soon after joining the ranks. There have been some disturbing signs that this benefit is being revoked or distorted, but it is still a stated benefit.

This led to a poignant moment for me while serving on Kua`i. The Army reservists were being activated for deployment in Afghanistan, which was a shock for people like a young man in my church, who had thought it would be easy scholarship money to volunteer for the Army Reserve, assuming they would just march in some parades and

maybe help out at the airport. The pastors on the island were asked to come bless the reservists as they were preparing to go to Afghanistan, so I went. One of the people I met there was a Filipino doctor, 60 years old and shorter than I am, and he was getting sent to the front lines. I didn't ask him why he had joined the Reserve though I could guess that he was attracted to the citizenship benefit, or educational opportunities, or both.

Those six military chaplains in Pacific Presbytery were great colleagues, and helped me learn more about their roles as well. They reminded me of Rev. Hiro Higuchi, a pastor in Hawai'i who founded several churches with the help of the 442nd vets he served as their chaplain. His records were recently given to the University of Hawai'i archives, and researchers were surprised to find that Rev. Higuchi was a pacifist and opposed entry into the war. However, he joined as a military chaplain in order to care for his boys from his churches.

For these reasons, and its great diversity, I do have an appreciation for the military. It's not that I celebrate war, or am ignorant of the dangers and injustices that have occurred, but I do see some underrepresented strengths. And especially with a volunteer army, I worry about the loss of personal empathy for the horrors of war that would guide the opinions of the general populace as we continue to send the "warrior class" to places of danger.

Now I've said too much, but within this context I have listened to the many tributes to Senator John McCain upon his death. It is surprising how many people, who agreed with his politics or not, have referenced his generous friendship and willingness to work together for the good of the country. One friend and colleague was former Senator John Kerry, who was also a vet but came to be an outspoken critic of the military. These two Vietnam vets worked together to normalize relations between Vietnam and the United States. The thought that a man who had been tortured as a prisoner of war for over 5 years would then visit this place of his capture several times, and work to normalize relations, is astounding to me.

In Sen. McCain's own words, he seemed to be a man of gratitude and purpose who always referred to his service as imperfect, and regularly and publicly apologized for his mistakes, which he confessed were "many." Yet he was a leader wherever he was, spoke truth even when it was unpopular, and regularly spoke of the importance of having a purpose greater than oneself.

On Sunday I had the opportunity to preach at Knox, which has become the vision of church that we all hold dear: a lively mix of faith and justice, praise and traditional music, a fairly even distribution from little children to seniors, active leadership, and some diversity. I chose to reflect on Ephesians 4:1-16, because I think it's perhaps the most succinct and compelling description of my understanding of church. It's not complete, but there's a lot to it. And as I prepared the sermon (and following McCain's lead, I do have to confess it was far from perfect!), I saw several parallels between John McCain's values and those represented in Ephesians 4. He may not have been gentle or patient, but he clearly lived out his sense of call, and was humble and capable of upholding others in love for the sake of unity. In Ephesians 4:14-16, there are warnings against being deceived by the winds of doctrine and trickery, and how we should speak the truth in love, and to gain maturity in faith.

If we were to use this passage as a standard for Christian maturity, it seems that maturity means not age or experience, but humility and honest self-awareness, a dedication to unity and love, and understanding that we must be "joined and knit together" in order to build up the body of Christ. John McCain did not speak much of faith, though he was active with a Baptist church in Phoenix, but his values of obedience to call, humility, truth-telling, love, unity, and connectedness are consistent with the marks of a healthy church.

There are many things I pray for in thanksgiving this week-for the South Hills resolution, for those who risked their lives to serve in the armed forces, for Knox Presbyterian Church, for John McCain, and always for this Presbytery. I trust you have many blessings for which you can give thanks.

Peace,
Wendy

International Peacemaker from Haiti coming to Los Angeles in September

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program brings leaders from partner organizations to interpret issues of peace and justice. The Presbytery of San Gabriel is hosting an International Peacemaker and a Mission Co-worker from Haiti. Together Fabienne Jean and Cindy Correll will share stories of connection and partnership between the PC(USA) and our Haitian ministry partner FONDAMA, an organization working to find lasting solutions to the problems that impoverish the population of Haiti including; land-grabbing, food imports, and climate change. Fabienne and Cindy will be in Southern California from September 22-26.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/international-peacemakers/>

If you would like them to speak at your church contact Liz Daley.

Liz@Daley.name

**Are you interested in learning about root causes of poverty and injustice?
Would you like to share in mending the brokenness that exists in our world?**

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program brings leaders from partner organizations to interpret issues of peace and justice each year. By sharing stories of their work and witness, these International Peacemakers help us understand peace and justice concerns around the world.

Come hear firsthand from both an International Peacemaker and a Mission Co-worker who represents the PC(USA) in Haiti. Together Fabienne Jean and Cindy Correll will share stories of connection and partnership between the PC(USA) and ministry partner FONDAMA.

Fabienne and Cindy will be in Southern California from September 22-26.

Please contact Liz Daley at Liz@Daley.name to schedule a visit.



Fabienne Jean is the coordinator of Hands Together Foundation of Haiti. Known by its Haitian Creole acronym FONDAMA, the network is part of an initiative of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Her role is to work with the member organizations to find lasting solutions to the problems that impoverish the population of Haiti. The member organizations serve their individual communities in promoting agriculture, environmental improvements, clean water, and education. The organizations address root causes of the country's poverty such as land-grabbing, food imports, and climate change by creating campaigns to reduce their harmful effects.

Cindy Correll worked as reporter and editor for The News Leader in Staunton, Va., until leaving to serve as a Mission Co-worker with PC(USA) in 2013. She serves as a companionship facilitator with the Presbyterian Hunger Program's Joining Hands network in Haiti.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/international-peacemakers/>

Vision and Strategy Team Resources:



Free Alpha Course Conference in Santa Monica

Are you interested in:

Reaching un-churched people in your community, and helping them to explore Christianity in a fun and meaningful way?

Attend a free Alpha-Conference:

Venue: Vintage Church, 1015 California Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90403

Date: 10 am Tuesday Oct 2 - Noon Wednesday Oct 3

The Alpha Course is a proven congregational development tool.

For more information contact: Jake Kim, Associate for Ministry Development for San Gabriel Presbytery at jakekim@sangabpres.org or visit

<https://www.vintagechurchla.com/alpha-con> or www.alphausa.org

2018 Spirituality & Aging Certificate Program



**A course integrating
faith and practice for those
working with and caring for
the older members of
our community**

Programs for older adults often rely on outdated models that do not reflect current cultural trends or an incomplete understanding of the deeper issues faced by persons in the later stages of life. Frequently, what's both lacking and needed is attention to spirituality in the aging process.

In the Spirituality & Aging Certificate Program, participants gain an understanding of the essential role spirituality plays in the aging process and how attending to the spirituality of older adults can enhance the efficacy of health care and congregational services for them. The certificate program is designed to increase awareness of spirituality in aging and empower participants to engage older adults spiritually in a holistic manner that is sensitive to spiritual formation and human development.



The Certificate Program on Spirituality & Aging will be offered starting in September 2018 with a retreat, followed by four courses, held monthly on Saturdays from 9 am to 1:30 pm. The program location is determined by registration.

Orientation Retreat	September 8, 2018
Course 1: Aging Defined	October 13, 2018
Course 2: Spirituality and Aging	November 10, 2018
Course 3: Aging in Context	January 12, 2019
Course 4: Spirituality & Organizational Theory	February 9, 2019

To contact us, and for continuing education and other information, please see the reverse.



Continuing Education Credit

The Spirituality and Aging Program meets continuing education requirements for:

- ❖ BBS
- ❖ RCFE
- ❖ CAMFT
- ❖ BRN
- ❖ NHA
- ❖ Your denomination

To Learn More

Visit <http://sccsa.ntswest.org> and contact us at 626-765-9500 or info@ntswest.org

Co-Sponsors



New Theological Seminary of the West

We are people who are excited to be part of a new way of doing seminary – serving and building up faith communities by offering a new theological education resource in Southern California. **New Theological Seminary of the West** offers graduate programs, lay leader education, continuing education for faith leaders, members, and clergy, programming for churches, and independent study options.

Learn more at: www.ntswest.org

At **HumanGood**, we strive to be more than just a provider of senior living communities. We are on a mission to help older adults reach their full potential. As a local nonprofit organization, we are committed to the notion that better physical environments, better service, and better lifestyles lead to the rich, purposeful life everyone desires and deserves.

human good

Learn more at: www.humangood.org

2018 REVIEW OF RECORDS

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

2018 Presbytery Meetings

September 15, 2018 @ Calvary Presbyterian Church, South Pasadena

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

www.synod.org

www.pcusa.org

www.pensions.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Church Administrator

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1757 North Lake Avenue, 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 church members, staff and visitors. This position has responsibility for facilities operations, maintaining the church calendar, scheduling events and the use of church space. He/she will work closely with the accountant to ensure that financial statements are accurate and timely. The person in this position will also assist the Personnel Committee in Human Resource matters.

Qualifications include:

- 3-5 years of supervisory experience including experience in the area of accounting and administration;
- 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: \$42,500 - \$47,500 based on experience and ability with medical coverage included.

To apply: Submit resume, and cover letter in pdf format to the attention of the Personnel Committee at admin@wpcpas.org. Please go to our website:

www.wpcpas.org

for a detailed job description. Applications will be received until the position is filled.

Emmanuel Hispanic Presbyterian Church

1111 No. Mountain Ave., Claremont, CA, 91711 is looking for a Temporary pastor, or Student Pastor, half time, who would like to offer his or her leadership in the work and growth of our ministry to the hispanic people in the area where we are located. The position requires preaching on Sunday morning, conducting a Bible study every Friday evening, some visitation, and cooperating with other activities of the church.

Salary according to experience and preparation.

Please send your resumé to Zoila A. García, Emmanuel Hispanic Presbyterian Church, 1111 No. Mountain Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. Or to

iglesiapresbyterianemmanuel@gmail.com



ITEMS OF INTEREST

What: Monte Vista Grove Homes Community-wide Fall

Event Includes a pancake breakfast, plant and used furniture, clothes, books, odd n' ends sale. Featuring live entertainment, a silent auction, and fun for kids!

When: October 6, 8-11am*

*Stores stay open until 12pm

Where: 2889 San Pasqual St. Pasadena, CA 91107

Why: To support Monte Vista Grove Homes in providing holistic, compassionate and loving Independent Living Care for retired ministers and missionaries who have served the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. for 20 years or more. Funds raised will also support the community-at-large in Assisted Living, Memory Care, and Skilled Nursing facilities

Stewardship Kaleidoscope

September 24-26, 2018- St. Louis, MO

[Register Here](#)

Save the Date - La Casa's Annual Fundraising Dinner

Thursday, October 11, 2018 6 P.M.

LA/San Gabriel Hilton

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