



Monday, January 27, 2020

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[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)

## ON THE CALENDAR

Committee on Representation and Nominations meets on **Tuesday, January 28** at 11:30 am at Shepherd of the Valley in Hacienda Heights.

## PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember Northminster Presbyterian Church in Diamond Bar in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, February 2, 2020.

## AID FOR PUERTO RICO

Last week we mentioned the opportunity to help our family in Puerto Rico. Roberto Ramirez, who just completed his term as Moderator of the Presbytery, comes from the region most directly impacted, and was under care of the Presbiterio del Suroeste

(Southwest Presbytery) before ordination.

If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to "Presbiterio del Suroeste" and send to:

Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana

ATTN: Ministerio de

ATTN: Maribel Cardona  
P. O. Box 229  
Hormigueros, PR 00660.

Elder Cardona is treasurer of the presbytery and will handle the donation most efficiently.

Please keep PR in your prayers, and give generously.

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

*Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying.*

*Luke 8:41-42a*

### Reflection: Fathers and Daughters

I was sitting in a church meeting where the congregation was beginning a discernment process before searching for a pastor. The man sitting next to me picked up his phone because it beeped; his eyes went wide with shock and he whispered to me "Kobe Bryant was killed in a helicopter crash."

In ways that surprise newcomers to Los Angeles, LA can act like a small town, and our folks have reacted to this news similarly to any other small town mourning the tragic death of their hometown hero-though rather than gathering at the town church or town hall, folks were gathering outside the plaza of Staples Center, intermingling with celebrities coming to attend the Grammys.

Tributes poured in, lionizing this still-young man not only for his supreme skills on the basketball court but also for his business savvy, intelligence, character, and family life. Every once in a while people would admit that he wasn't a perfect man, that he had made mistakes.

As it happens, my friend Bertrand, who is still detained at Adelanto, called yesterday. He said that the detainees were shocked by Kobe's death. They had just seen the tribute LeBron James gave the night before (an amazing coincidence, that Kobe's last known tweet was congratulating LeBron for passing him as the third-highest scorer in NBA history). I joked with Bertrand that he is truly becoming an American, as most of us are bound together by news sent to us by television and social media. I asked him if he had known about Kobe in Cameroon. He said absolutely, and that he was revered for someone who had so much success, and without scandal.

I told Bertrand that Kobe was not without scandal. Back in 2003, when he was 25, Kobe was accused of rape. The trial was ended as he issued a thoughtful apology and he and the woman made a private civil settlement.

Of course I do not know the details of the situation, but in this time of "no apologies" his statement seemed to demonstrate an understanding of the pain the woman experienced, and his reputation and marriage survived.

Kobe and his wife had four daughters, and by all accounts he was devoted to them. Sadly, one of the daughters died in the same crash. Much has been said of his connection with Gianna because of her interest in basketball, but he didn't push that; his oldest daughter plays volleyball. In his interviews, what is clear is that Kobe has evolved from the young man abusing a woman at a hotel to become a proud father of four young women, and a strong advocate for women in sports. In a social setting that does not lend itself to advocacy for young girls, Kobe reminds me of Jairus, another leader in a male-dominated circle who yet demonstrated profound love for his daughter-and for that I am glad that Kobe's legacy is in these young daughters he loved and respected, not for his worst bad act.

I do not tell this story because I'm such a huge Kobe Bryant fan (though he was impressive in his multilingual abilities and his eloquent manner, and hey, I have loved basketball-one of the more memorable communions I've experienced was when I was served communion by Marques Johnson). I share this because I have been thinking lately about God's call to repentance, and the freedom that comes with repentance, and-most importantly-whether we as "good church folk" forgive as God forgives. Do we in fact allow people to repent and move forward as Jesus calls us to do, or do we continue to see people through the filter of their worst bad act?

We all fall short of the glory of God. Some of us make spectacularly bad acts; some of us just live in the lukewarm integrity of risk aversion. We are all offered forgiveness for our sins of commission-or omission-but are called to forgive others as we have been forgiven.

Thank God for second, and third, and many more chances to live, and forgive, and be forgiven. Thank God for fathers who come to care for, learn from, and advocate for their daughters. May all of us learn from the circumstances of our lives, and share our wisdom with others.

In Christ,  
Wendy



## Register Now for Our Annual Winterfest Event!

### Why Come to Winterfest 2020?

As one of the most ethnically diverse presbyteries in the country, our churches are already engaging the world within our own doors. This year's plenary speaker, Charlene Jin Lee, will help us think about how we can grow in our multicultural engagement both inside and outside our churches. Don't miss this important conversation!

Bring a group of leaders from your church to take advantage of all the workshop topics - everything from justice topics like creation care and immigration, to practical training like appreciating volunteers and learning how to be a new elder or clerk. **Churches who register five people will receive the sixth registration free, and the first six churches will also receive a complimentary resource bundle. Register now!**

**Cost is \$10 and covers lunch catered by Little Green Forks.**

Arcadia Community Church is located at 121 Alice Street. Registration opens at 9:00 am with coffee and pastries provided.

Register by using this Link:

<https://knoxpresbyterian.breezechms.com/form/Winterfest2020>



*'Lord, when did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?  
When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*

*'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me.'*

Scripture has been fulfilled right here at LAC+USC Medical Center!

On Tuesday December 17, 2019, volunteers from around Los Angeles County, including Rev. Sue Fisher, Hazel Benitez



Angeles County, including Rev. Sue Fisher, Hagar Benitez, Donna and Rick Huff, joined the Spiritual Care Team at LAC+USC Medical Center and shared blankets with over 500 patients. Each of the blankets was handmade with love and prayer, many of them by knitters, crochet-ers and quilters from Presbyterian churches, including Culver City, Palisades, La Verne Heights, St. Peters by the Sea and Covenant.

We went in teams of three to give the gift of a handmade blanket to each person in the hospital that day. Entering the patients' rooms, blankets in our arms, we were met with smiles and tears of gratitude. In that moment, we didn't know the name of the person who invested time, energy and prayer into the creation of the blanket. In the same way, when we gave the blankets, the volunteer team didn't know the

patients' name or the details of their illness or the struggles they face. But, when we spread the blanket across their bed, it becomes a sacred transaction, an opportunity for us to join together and care for our siblings in the human family, an opportunity for us to celebrate that our God, in the person of Jesus, has drawn near and we have seen our Lord! May the blessings of comfort and health be with you in 2020

If you knit, crochet, quilt or sew we welcome your donations for 2020! Blankets need to be handmade (knit, crocheted, quilted or sewn) and prayed over - and at least 36"x36".

- Rev. Elizabeth Gibbs Zehnder serves as Presbyterian staff chaplain at LAC+USC Medical Center. The Presbyterian Chaplaincy is made possible through the Consortium funded by the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii, the Presbyteries of the Los Ranchos, Pacific, San Fernando and San Gabriel (thanks to San Marino Community Church).

To find out more about this ministry and how you can be involved, please contact her at [123EGZ@gmail.com](mailto:123EGZ@gmail.com).



*Pacific & San Gabriel Presbyteries, Peacemaking Program, and Presbyterian World Mission are partnering to coordinate a **study seminartrip to the Southern Border (Tijuana) February 29-March 1, 2020.** [Click here for more information on the border trip.](#) Please share the flyer with anyone in your congregation who might be interested in this opportunity.*


**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**



**THE U.S. SOUTHERN  
BORDER: WHAT IS  
HAPPENING AND  
HOW PRESBYTERIANS  
CAN RESPOND**



**Sat., Feb. 29 - Mon., Mar. 2, 2020**  
We'll travel from Los Angeles to Tijuana, Mexico to visit a migrant shelter and have interactions with important actors offering



humanitarian and legal services to asylum seekers being forced to wait in Mexico. We will stay overnight in Tijuana, Mexico and on Sunday will attend a binational worship experience right on the border. Monday will be a full day, hosted by Pacific Presbytery, in meetings and conversations to further understand the context and gain tools and insight to discern ways we can get involved, offer support, accompaniment and much needed advocacy. This seminar is sponsored jointly by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, World Mission and Pacific and San Gabriel Presbyteries.

For more information:  
[TRACEY.KING-ORTEGA@PCUSA.ORG](mailto:TRACEY.KING-ORTEGA@PCUSA.ORG)

## **Immigration & Refugee Task Force Gathering**

**Wednesday February 12, at 7pm**

**Covenant Chapel - Resource Center**

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
6323 W 80th St, Los Angeles, CA 90045

An intimate gathering of praying, hoping, lamenting and learning together about the current state of migrants in detention and at the border, led by our Immigrant Accompaniment Organizer, Kristi Van Nostran. Also lots of options for immigration ministry for your church in 2020.

**CONTACT**

**KRISTI VAN NOSTRAN**

**KRISTI VAN NOSTRAN**  
Immigrant Accompaniment Organizer  
at [PresbyWelcome@gmail.com](mailto:PresbyWelcome@gmail.com) or  
(360) 521-4096 for more information

## BEWARE OF SCAM EMAILS

A few of our congregations have recently received scam emails. Please be careful when opening links or attachments and only open links or attachments from senders you know. Check the email address to be sure it is your contacts email address and not just their name with an unknown email address. Below are two articles about recent email scams:

Gift Card Scam: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/crime/bs-md-co-cr-gift-card-scam-20191231-bwik253n6bc7pd6sbdirnccs5xu-story.html>

And here is one describing the payroll scam: <https://www.checkmatepayroll.com/payroll-fraud-alert-direct-deposit-scam/>

[Click here for full flyer.](#)

Los Ranchos Presbytery  
**Pastors Retreat**  
February 10-12, 2020  
Serra Retreat Center, Malibu



# What happens to worship music when Adam Tice and Sally Ann Morris meet?

*Two brilliant writers of contemporary, thought-provoking texts and tunes inspire!*

Save the dates:  
February 21-23, 2020

Calvary Presbyterian Church, South Pasadena

Specific Program information-free and open to all, will follow

Explore the fine art of hymn writing: you'll be singing, writing, listening, crying and laughing and making new friends. Listen to and learn from the remarkable contributions Adam and Sally have already given us in *Glory to God*, and that's just the beginning!

Sally and Adam were featured presenters at the 2019 Montreat Worship and Music Conference in Montreat, North Carolina. Plan to join us at Calvary as we bring a taste of Montreat to Southern California.



# RISE

# WINTER CAMP

BIG BEAR LAKE CHRISTIAN CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Junior High and High School Students

March 20 - 22

Register at [bblccc.com/march-madness](http://bblccc.com/march-madness)

Email [bigbearlakechristianconference@gmail.com](mailto:bigbearlakechristianconference@gmail.com)



## Presbytery Meeting dates for 2020

Saturday, March 28 - 9:00 am at Korean Good Shepherd in Rowland Heights

Saturday, May 30 - 9:00 am - GA Co-Moderator Rev. Cindy Kohlmann  
at Iglesia de la Comunidad in Los Angeles

Saturday, September 26 - 9:00 am at San Marino Community Church

Tuesday, November 17 - 7:00 pm at Westminster PC in Pasadena

## 2020 Presbytery Minimums

Pastor's Minimum Salary: \$57,685

Travel/Professional Expense Reimbursement: \$2,735

Study Leave: \$1,020

## 2020 Mileage Reimbursement Rates:

Business 57.5 cents per mile

Medical 17 cents per mile

Charitable 14 cents per mile

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pasadena, CA has an immediate for a full-time Custodian.**

Daily duties include (but not limited to):

Minor building maintenance and repairs, attention to yardwork and landscaping duties, maintain general exterior and interior appearance of the Church and property, creating and following a general maintenance routine, the ability to lift up to 100 lbs, ensuring the general safety and cleanliness of the building and property. Assisting with Church services and special events.



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

Please send resumes Westminster Church via email to [admin@wpcpas.org](mailto:admin@wpcpas.org), attn.: Trina

### **SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (Undergraduate) | POMONA HOPE**

Pomona Hope's 10-week summer internship is an opportunity for undergraduate students to participate in urban ministry and gain professional experience while working with K-12 youth in the city of Pomona. Summer Interns live together on-site to develop relationships with each other and their immediate neighborhood. Interns facilitate Summer Enrichment with Pomona Hope, a 5-week program for K-12 students, by teaching daily workshops, planning field trips and mentoring High School volunteers. Interns also partner closely with First Presbyterian Church of Pomona's weekly youth ministry and annual Vacation Bible School.

Learn more about Pomona Hope and find a full internship description and application [HERE](#). Applications due April 13, 2020, with preference given to applications arriving by January 31, 2020!

**La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church** has an opening for a position titled Communications and Office Administrative Associate. This is a Full-Time position - 36 hours per week. Benefits according to the Personnel Policy. Resumes should be sent to Shelly Ulrich at [shellyulrich55@gmail.com](mailto:shellyulrich55@gmail.com). Click [HERE](#) to download a complete job description.

La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church has an opening for a Bookkeeper. This is a part-time position. Click [HERE](#) to download a complete job description. Materials requested in the job description should be mailed to:

La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church  
1040 Baseline Road  
La Verne, CA 91750

**Calvary Presbyterian Church of South Pasadena** is seeking a thoughtful, energetic, and creative candidate for our Children & Youth Ministries position. This is a full time, salaried position. Hours negotiable. Click [HERE](#) to download detail/job description.

For more information about our church please visit [www.cpcsouthpas.org](http://www.cpcsouthpas.org).

Please send a cover letter and resume to The Rev. Millason Dailey, [millason@cpcsouthpas.org](mailto:millason@cpcsouthpas.org).

## **EVENTS OF INTEREST**

### **Save the Date**

The Board of Directors of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Inc. just cast a unanimous vote for the 2021 Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women!  
August 5-8, 2021 - St Louis, MO