



PRESBYTERY OF SAN GABRIEL

Monday, February 17, 2020

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ON THE CALENDAR

Education, Equipping, and Empowerment Committee meets Wed., Feb. 19 at 4:00 pm at the Presbytery Center, TC

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Please remember the family and friends of Rev. Barbara Stout who passed away on Saturday night.

Please remember Shepherd of the Valley in Hacienda Heights in the Prayers of the People in your worship service on Sunday, February 16, 2020.

AID FOR PUERTO RICO

Recently 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: 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.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER, WENDY TAJIMA

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ

...

Ephesians 4:11-12



Reflection: It Takes a Village

Last week I mentioned that Steve Wiebe and I were on our way to Adelanto to be at a court hearing for our Cameroonian friend Bertrand.

So we did get there on time, and felt good that there were only two cases scheduled for that courtroom that morning. The first case was a father of three daughters. His wife had come to the USA from El Salvador with the two elder girls long ago, and now they are all US citizens; the third daughter was born here. The father came in without documents to join them, and was detained. This was to be his last court hearing, and the oldest daughter said they expected to hear either

that he would be released, or deported.

After four hours of tense waiting, the family came out in tears. They said the judge, who was "mean," told them they had to come back in March for another hearing because they didn't have all the documentation in order.

What that meant was Bertrand's hearing was rescheduled to the next day. Unfortunately, neither Steve nor I could come on Tuesday, so Bertrand was going to court with no attorney or supporters. But he is a very resourceful person, so had spoken with friends about how the hearings go, and he had Scripture, so he kept the following text in his heart and his mind:

[Jesus said,] "When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how you are to defend yourselves or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say." *Luke 12:11-12*

That evening-during the Presbytery Executive Commission meeting-I got a call from Bertrand. He said the judge apologized to him that his hearing was delayed, and then asked some questions based on his declaration, especially about the NGO he worked with. They used a web search to confirm the legitimacy of the NGO, and his connection with it. The judge said she was sorry that she was banned from granting asylum, and gave him another form of leave, with her own blessing that God continue to guide and protect him. Because Bertrand waited in Tijuana (for three months!) until the Border Patrol allowed him in, he did not have to pay any bond, and was to be released the next day!

So Bertrand called the next day, Wednesday, during our Presbytery staff meeting. Now it has been said (certainly not in THIS presbytery) that there's no need to contribute to shared mission giving, because it only goes to pay Presbytery staff, and what do they do with their time, anyway? So let me share what your staff and Presbytery friends did in the second half of this last week.

Bertrand was being released that afternoon, and it was expected for someone to pick him up by 6:30 pm, at Adelanto. He had heard about a group who was arranging for pickups, but he couldn't reach them. ICE gave him one (completed) office phone call, and that ended up being me. Now it was 4 pm, and given east-bound rush hour traffic, we knew it would take 2.5 hours just to get there. And here's my confession of my Californian bourgeois life-not only were my dogs at the groomers, my little electric car didn't have enough battery power to get to Adelanto!

Kristi Van Nostran started organizing for the release, and gave us the voice of experience. Ally Lee gave me her car key to drive to Adelanto, and offered to house Bertrand. And thank God for family as well as staff, as my nephew agreed to pick up the dogs.

Hitting the road immediately, I got to Adelanto right at the time for Bertrand's release. By that time it was 42 degrees in the high desert, and Bertrand was wearing a sweatshirt that Adelanto gave him. His bag had been taken in Tijuana the night before he was allowed entry into the US, and since they took him straight to Adelanto, they gave him clothing and toiletries during his detention-but who wants a prison jumpsuit in public, and they wouldn't let him take his toothbrush. So he was released with a white plastic trash bag with the jacket he was wearing when he came in, his Bibles, and little else, and that was it.

Thursday was busy, and he spent the day with Steve Wiebe. I have to share the sweetest moment when we arrived at PPC. As Bertrand and I walked into the office, Elder Ellen Harkin was volunteering at the front desk, and she smiled and said, "You must be Bertrand! Welcome!" It was like the voice of heaven blessing Bertrand, and I got to witness it.

The only thing Bertrand asked for was a haircut. Ally knew that the chair of Knox' immigrant ministry is a barber, so she and Steve arranged to get his haircut, as well as other needed supplies. Kristi contacted the circle of support organizations to arrange for Bertrand to get a cell phone and a ticket to North Dakota, where his sponsor lives and where he needs to report next week. Kristi got him a ticket through [Miles4Migrants](#), a non-profit that works with people who donate their unused frequent flyer miles. And Steve and Kristi got to witness the heartwarming phone call when Bertrand spoke with his sponsor, a family member who somehow settled in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Kristi and Brian Lee said farewell as he left for his new life.

Through the lens of this one person among thousands, I hope you get a glimpse of this largely invisible network of people seeking to offer welcome and safe passage to so many. Last week I mentioned Claremont's Refugee Ministry Team, who have been active in this network, as has Knox. I know that Pomona Pres and Mideast Evangelical, as well as all our Latinx churches, have given safe harbor and support for people fleeing violence in the Middle East and Latin America. And for Bertrand, I thank God for the people of Knox and Pasadena Presbyterian, and for my staff colleagues of San Gabriel Presbytery. Thank God for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, whose grant pays for Kristi's work, and for Pacific Presbytery, who helped us get the grant. Thank God for all of them, and thank God for your support. And continued prayers for Bertrand as he settles in his new home, and for all who are still seeking family and safety in this world.

At the same time this was happening, another staff member, Lauren Evans, has been with the family and at the bedside of long-time minister member and former interim executive presbyter Rev. Barbara Stout. Barbara, former pastor of Trinity Presbyterian in Pasadena, fell and broke her hip last a week ago, and her health seriously deteriorated since. Barbara went very peacefully home to her Lord on Saturday night at 11 pm. Please pray for Barbara's family, and give thanks for a lifetime of love and ministry. We will send details about the celebration of her life as we get them.

Blessings,
Wendy

PS Bertrand landed safely in North Dakota and sent a note of thanks, saying:
I kind of really lack words with me now to express the joy and appreciation for my current mode. I can't tell how thankful I am for your support during one of the most difficult challenges I've had to face. Thank you doesn't seem like big enough words to say but know that I am very thankful for the support of you all and I have a lot of kindness to pay forward in the days ahead. I am grateful that I have more healthy days ahead to look forward too especially with family reunion with my brother up at North Dakota. You all mean a lot to me now and form part of a family and core of me which I can't really explain ... I pray you all continually remain blessed and continually being enriched with God's blessing for all the good works you have been doing. THANK YOU.



Eco-Palms:

Make social and environmental justice part of your congregation's worship

Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, accented by the jubilant waving of palm branches, is re-enacted each Palm Sunday in Presbyterian and other Christian congregations worldwide as Holy Week observances begin. Unfortunately for the communities where these palms are harvested, palm fronds do not always represent the same jubilation they do for us.

In 2007 the PC(USA) teamed up with [Lutheran World Relief](#), [Catholic Relief Services](#), and the [University of Minnesota](#) to offer congregations the option of purchasing responsibly harvested Eco-Palm branches for Palm Sunday. The palms come from communities in Mexico and Guatemala where workers are paid fairly and engage in sustainable harvesting in order to protect the local ecosystem.

Why order Eco-Palms?

- Over 300 million palm fronds are used in the United States annually.
- Eco-palms are purchased directly from harvesters at 5 to 6 times the normal payment per frond.
- Your purchase of eco-palms helps improve standards of living and protects forests.

For more information, click here

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger/enough/eco-palms-2/>

To order, click here

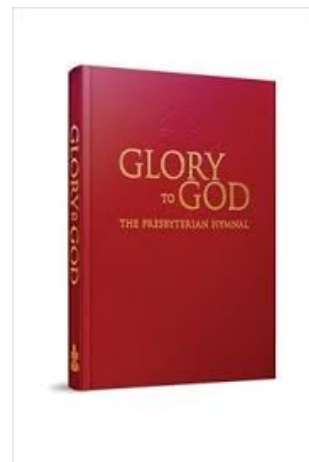
<https://ecopalms.org/store/featured.php>

Tuesday Afternoon Hymn Sing at Monte Vista Grove

Join the residents of Monte Vista Grove for a Hymn Sing at 4 pm every Tuesday in February and March in Marwick Place at 2889 San Pasqual St. Pasadena.

Rebecca Thompson will lead this Hymn Sing based on the hymns in the *Glory to God* hymnal.

If you have any questions please contact Huw Christopher at huwchristopher@gmail.com or (850) 209-6931.



SoCal Choral Workshop

Featuring Clinicians:



Adam
Tice



Sally Ann
Morris

Saturday, February 22nd

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Calvary Presbyterian Church

1050 Fremont Ave
South Pasadena, California

Sponsored by:

The Presbyterian Association of Musicians

&

Calvary Presbyterian Church

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

February 22, 2020

Calvary Presbyterian Church, South Pasadena

Register here: [PresbyMusic Event](#)

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!

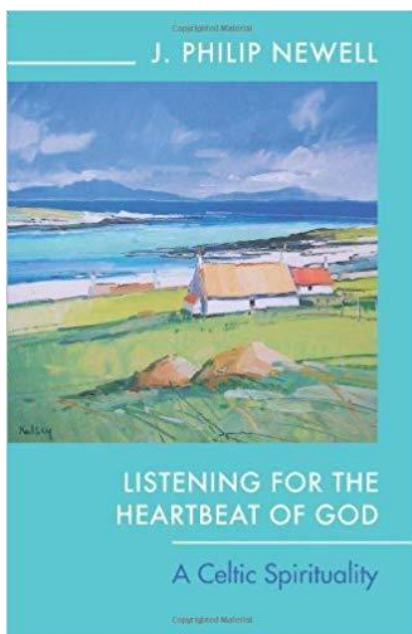
Sally and Adam were featured presenters at the 2019 Montreat Worship and Music Conference in Montreat, North Carolina. Plan to join us at Calvary as we bring a taste of Montreat to Southern California.

**Listening for the Heartbeat of God: Celtic Spirituality with J.
Phillip Newell**

Monday, February 24, 2020

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

The Church of Our Savior in San Gabriel



Listening for the Heartbeat of God - a spirituality for today, modeled on the vital characteristics of Celtic spirituality throughout the centuries. The emphasis is on the goodness of creation and of humanity made in the image of God. John Philip Newell, formerly Warden of Iona Abbey in the Western Isles of Scotland, writes, teaches and leads international pilgrimage weeks on Iona. He is the co-founder of Heartbeat: A Journey Towards Earth's Wellbeing, established to expand sacred vision, deepen spiritual practice, nurture reflective community, and enable action for change.

Register: <https://stillpointca.org/retreats>

Accompaniment Training coming to Los Angeles in March

The road to peace looks different in different parts of the world - but no matter where you are, it helps to walk the road together. Presbyterian Peace Fellowship has been invited to walk with community leaders in the [Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia](#) and the [Centro de Atencion al Migrante "Exodus,"](#) sending accompaniers to the U.S. Mexico border and to northern Colombia. Accompaniers listen, learn, and return home to share stories of peacebuilding. Are you interested? Click [HERE](#) for more info about accompaniment.

Accompaniment begins with a long weekend of training and discernment in the U.S. At this three-day gathering, people who are interested in accompaniment gather to train in non-violence and anti-racism, engage with accompaniment principles, learn about the contexts in which we have been invited to practice accompaniment, and spend time in discernment and reflection. You organize your own travel to the Learn & Discern event; all costs are covered while you're there (lodging and food).

Anyone who is interested in accompaniment is welcome to learn and discern in community with PPF! Are you called to accompaniment service? [Click here](#) to find out more about the next Learn & Discern training weekend on March 20-23 in Los Angeles, how to apply, and requirements to serve.



Choir Robes And Stoles Available - Free

San Marino Community Church has 16 choir robes (dusty blue) in various sizes and many two-sided choir stoles. First come, first served - must be gone by March 15. Free for the taking. Please contact Deborah Kwan at (626) 282-4181 x15 or DKwan@smccpby.com. Stole quantities: Red/Pink - 54, Red/Purple - 16, Red/Deep Purple - 14, Gold/Purple - 67, Green/Purple - 10, Gold/Gold - 60 + 54, Red/Gold - 15. Wooden storage boxes included.

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, 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 an Office Administrator. This is a Full-Time position. Benefits according to the Personnel

Policy. Resumes should be sent to Shelly Ulrich at shellyulrich55@gmail.com.
Click [HERE](#) to download a complete job description.

NATIONAL EVENTS

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

Quick Links

www.sangabpres.org

www.synod.org

www.pcusa.org

www.pensions.org

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